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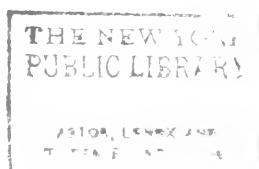
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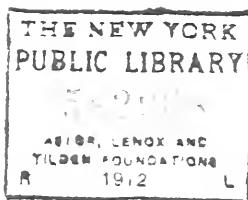
Abbot Memorial Book

# The Abbot Memorial Book.

THE ABOT MEMORIAL BOOK

1902

1902



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PRESS OF A. V. HAIGHT,  
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

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ABBOT MEMORIAL BOOK.

PART I.



The Abbot Memorial Committee are under obligations to Rev. Edward Abbott, D.D., for generous aid rendered in the work of the Committee, and especially for material used in the production of this memorial volume.





## FOREWORD.

WHENCE THIS LITTLE BOOK ?

LISTEN !



ONCE upon a time two Shining Ones with hearts aglow in a great love and a purpose as great as the love, came to the busy haunts of men to woo to a larger life the daughters of the land.

Their methods were simple, they but chanted an old refrain, in a tongue hitherto unheeded in the market place.

“ Knowledge is better than choice gold ;  
Wisdom is better than rubies,  
All things that may be desired,  
Cannot be compared to it.”

The song was borne afar. The melody was taken up by many voices, for it accorded with the unheeded or unspoken longings hidden in young hearts.

There was quick response, and from near and far came those who flocked as the doves to their windows, to the new opportunity and hope.

A brilliant galaxy of noble souls in spiritual affinity with the new force of truth drew near with the gifts they had to impart, and so it came to pass that the best that man has thought or done was poured out in unstinted measure in the work of the Shining Ones.

Then it was recognized that a building not made with hands, in which the lively stones were character, and the adornments lofty ideals, had been growing through the

years. A glorious vision of a College Beautiful dawned upon the near horizon. It was more than a vision, for its corner stone was laid and its fair walls were rising aglow with spiritual light.

But suddenly the clouds gathered, the mists hung low, the vision faded in the shadow, and as men gazed and wondered, the heavens received the Shining Ones out of their sight.

They left behind them two forces; their purpose, and the souls they had blessed.

Into the foundation laid by another Master Workman, was poured the labor, the devotion, the experience of years.

A new era appeared in which young men and maidens were infused with such a spirit of achievement in the domain of learning as to transform life.

The Shining Ones had gone. Few remembered, perhaps only they whose lives had been touched by their influence knew of the service rendered to their day and to the generations that should come after them.

To these has been given the privilege of gathering the fragments remaining of a life story of sacrifice, of radiant burden-bearing, of unswerving consecration to lofty ideals, through the years of a long career. Such a record must forever sanctify the teachers' high vocation and preserve in the annals of education the honored names of those who first inaugurated and made possible the woman's college in America.

“And the Spirit, said write,  
Blessed.”

Hence this

ABBOT MEMORIAL BOOK.

# THE ABBOT MEMORIAL BOOK.\*

## CHAPTER FIRST.

LEAVES FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE.

BY REV. EDWARD ABBOTT, D.D.



GORHAM DUMMER ABBOT was born in Brunswick, Maine, on the third of September, 1807; the fourth child and third son of Jacob and Betsey Abbot. He received his name in memory of Gorham Dummer, a son of Judge Dummer of Hallowell, who had married his mother's sister, Sarah Abbot, of Concord, New Hampshire. He fitted for Bowdoin College, in part at the Academy in Gorham, under Mr. Nason; in part at Wiscasset, with Dr. Packard; and graduated in the class of 1826, in company with Sargent S. Prentiss, John T. Gilman, George Trask, and others, thirty-one in all; a class slightly smaller than, and hardly destined to as much distinction as, the now famous one of 1825, immediately preceding; of which his brother, John S. C. Abbott, was a member. After graduation he taught for a season at Castine, Maine, and took a partial course at Andover Theological Seminary, in the class of 1831, being the same in which Rev. Dr. Brainerd of Philadelphia, Presidents Stearns and Labaree, and Professors Peck and Owen graduated—serving for a time during his course as Asso-

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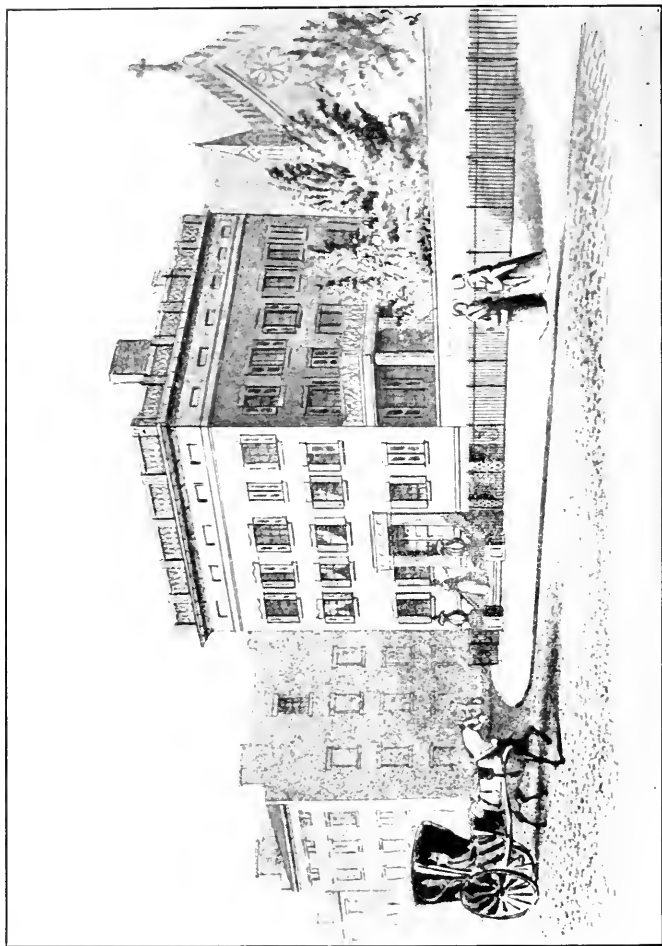
\*Early in their manhood the several sons of Jacob Abbot, of Brunswick, changed the spelling of their surname by the addition of a second *t*; but in his later manhood the subject of this Memorial returned to the other mode. This fact accounts for the variation followed in these pages.

ciate Principal of Amherst Academy. At the close of his theological studies he made an extended equestrian tour along the Atlantic seaboard into the Southern States, partly in the hopes of restoring his health, which had become seriously impaired. Upon his return he rendered assistance to his brother, Jacob Abbott, in the Mount Vernon School for Young Ladies in Boston. It was in connection with this school that he became acquainted with Miss Rebecca S. Leach, having been the means of securing her as one of its teachers; whom he married on the 11th of February, 1834. Subsequently he removed to New York City, where, having assumed the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian Church at New Rochelle, he was ordained as an evangelist by the Third Presbytery, on the 25th of December, 1837. In this relation he continued until 1841, residing at New Rochelle, but giving much of his thought and time to the development of certain educational and literary projects in company with gentlemen in the city. It was at this time that he undertook the organization of the American Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; in whose service he traveled very extensively throughout the country, arranging public meetings in its behalf, and promoting the circulation through the common schools of a wholesome literature.

In 1843 Mr. Abbot repaired to New York, to join his older brother Jacob and his younger brother Charles, in the founding of a "New Seminary for Young Ladies." The location of this school was at No. 45 Lafayette Place, Colonnade Houses, opposite to which the Astor Library now stands. This was the beginning of Mr. Abbot's long and successful career as an educator. The "First Report, with Catalogue," of the new institution, dated 1844, shows a total of between one hundred and thirty and one hundred

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ABBOTT'S INSTITUTION,  
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and forty pupils. The number increased so rapidly, that in the spring of 1845 it became necessary to remove to a larger edifice on Houston Street, and in the fall of the same year the entire Senior Department, embracing fifty young ladies, was detached, under Mr. Abbot, to form at his residence on Washington Square, a distinct school for the pursuit of the higher branches of a liberal education. The old school remained in its former quarters.

In May, 1846, Mr. Abbot removed his "Institution" to the corner of University Place and Ninth Street; and again in 1848 to a fine new edifice on Union Square, erected especially for it by the heirs of the then late Henry Spangler. With this last step the school assumed the name of "The Spangler Institute," under which it justly became one of the educational landmarks of the city. For a long series of years it occupied a foremost position, and drew boarding pupils from all parts of the country, as well as day scholars from all parts of the metropolis. During the sixteen years from 1845 to 1861, when the school reached the highest pitch of its success, more than thirteen hundred young ladies were connected with it, coming from as many as twenty-eight different States, the District of Columbia, Canada, and the West Indies; and even from as far away a land as Switzerland.

All this success "The Spangler" fairly deserved. Repeated visits to Europe<sup>1</sup> had familiarized Mr. Abbot with the best methods and appliances of instruction abroad, and nothing was spared that might increase the usefulness of the institution, and advance its character. It came to have a gallery of numerous and valuable paintings; a philosophical apparatus equal in most respects, if not all, to that

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<sup>1</sup> He was a juror at the "World's Fair" in London in 1851.

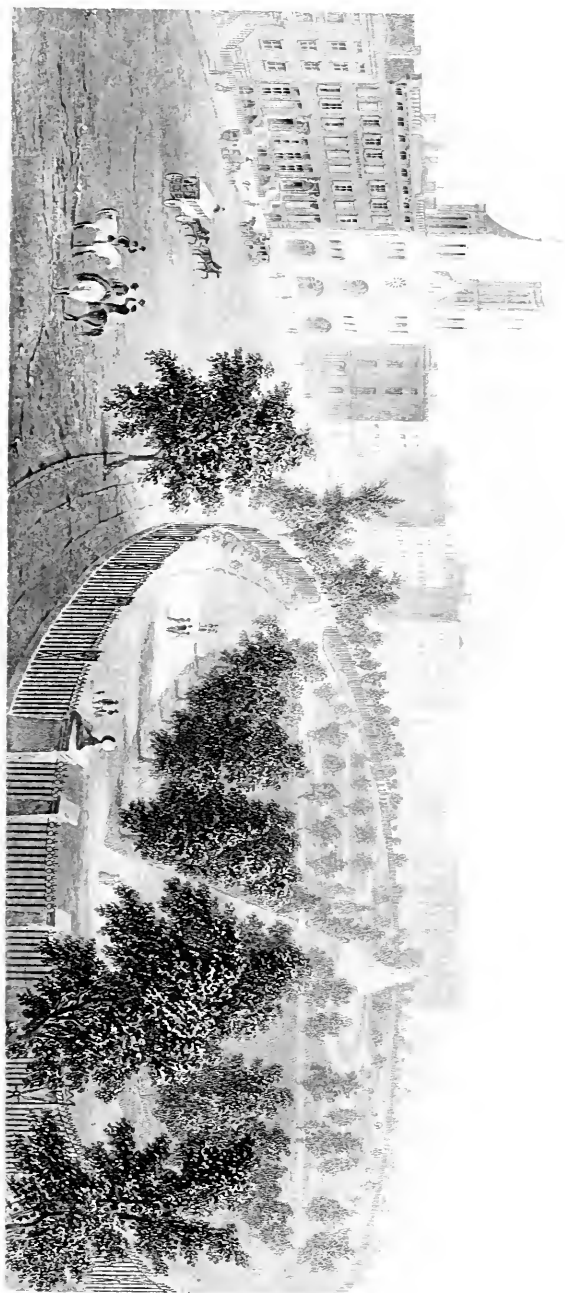
of any college in the country; and a corps of teachers embracing many names of real distinction; while the courses of lectures which it provided, on a true university plan, evinced an enterprise which was more striking then, than it would be now, because more novel.

The school further was truly a church, and its principal a pastor, in the efforts taken with the religious training of the pupils, and the influence exerted upon character. There was one time when fifteen *only daughters* were members of the family; it cannot be said now how many passed through the school to become the servants of Christ.

"The Spingler" was at the meridian of its success and fame, when, in 1861, it was removed to the famous Townsend Mansion, on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, purchased by Mr. Abbot for its accommodation at a very large cost. With this removal, the school resumed its old name of the "Abbot Collegiate Institute," but though passing for the time being into greater prominence, it could hardly enlarge its true resources by the change, or extend and deepen its already remarkable influence. And when, a few years later, under pressure of war times, this mansion of splendor was of necessity relinquished for a more modest house on the corner of Park Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street, it was for the school to enter upon what proved its final stage.

It is no exaggeration to say that during these more than twenty years of labor as an instructor, Mr. Abbot rendered services of exceptional value, not only in the direct training of the many hundreds of young ladies who came under his care, but in raising the standard of female education all over the land; and without a doubt the present rapid progress of this cause owes its impulse in no small degree to him.





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Mr. Abbot's life-work was education, not authorship; nevertheless he wrote several books, and his hand is to be distinguished in not a few of the reports and other documents uttered by various organizations with which he was from time to time connected; while he was an occasional, though not a frequent contributor to the periodical press. He was the means, however, of many valuable publications, being by instinct and taste an organizer of literature rather, than personally a writer. All his influence of this sort it would be impossible here to trace; nor do the titles given below<sup>1</sup> probably exhaust the list of works of which he was himself actually the author. It is an interesting fact that these his several publications very completely exemplify the three-fold engagement of his tireless mind, and the corre-

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<sup>1</sup>MEMOIR OF NATHAN W. DICKERMAN, who Died at Boston, (Mass.) January 2, 1830, in the Eighth Year of his Age. Boston: Peirce & Parker, 1831. Small 12mo, pp. 140.

SCRIPTURE NATURAL HISTORY. . . . By William Carpenter. First American, from the Latest London Edition, with Improvements. By Rev. Gorham D. Abbot. Illustrated by Numerous Engravings. To which are Added Sketches of Palestine and the Holy Land. Boston: Lincoln, Edmands & Co., 1833. 12mo. pp. 408.

THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS: A Discourse Delivered in the Presbyterian Church, at New Rochelle, N. Y., on the Occasion of the Funeral Services of Dr. Matson Smith, March 19, 1845. Being a Narrative of the Exercises of a Dying Christian. By Gorham D. Abbot. New York: Not Published: Printed for the Family. 1845. Pamphlet, pp. 32.

THE FIRST ENGLISH READER. Edited by the Rev. Gorham D. Abbot. Illustrated. London: Taylor & Walton, MDCCCXLVIII. 12mo. pp. 143.

THE SECOND ENGLISH READER. do., do.

THE NEW ENGLISH SPELLING BOOK. Designed to teach Orthography and Orthoëpy: with a Critical Analysis of the Language, and a Classification of its Elements. On a New Plan. By Rev. Gorham D. Abbot. Second Edition, with Illustrations. London: Taylor & Walton, MDCCCXLVIII. 12mo. pp. 138.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES: Their Mutual Relations and Common Interests. By Gorham D. Abbot, LL. D. With Portraits on Steel of Juarez and Romero, and Colored Maps. New York: G. P. Putnam & Son, 1869. 8vo. pp. 391.

sponding phases of his busy life, namely: the sketch of Nathan Dickerman and the Memorial Sermon, his interest in personal religion and Christian character; the Natural History and the Speller and Readers; his concern for thorough education and the amplest educational apparatus; and the work on Mexico, his enthusiasm upon great public questions of his time.

With all his successes, Mr. Abbot was a sufferer by many misfortunes, some of which followed him to his dying day, but none of which embittered his spirit. His interest in useful inventions, and his taste for venture, led him into many enterprises lying outside the path of his profession, none of which estranged his heart from his high duties, but not a few of which resulted disastrously. The competence with which he retired from active life, failed him just at the time when most he needed it, and he was finally left in very different circumstances from those which he had enjoyed in the earlier part of his career.

Early in 1871 Mr. and Mrs. Abbot, relieved at last of the heavy burdens of professional toil and responsibility which they had long borne together, removed to the village of South Natick, a few miles out of Boston, where, in the ancient house formerly occupied by Mrs. Abbot's mother, they secured to themselves a quiet home for their remaining years. Mr. Abbot found various service for his active mind and ready hand, though feeble health now precluded the laborious industry which had always been his habit. At one period he ministered to the Eliot Congregational Church, and with great acceptance; and in many ways gave expression to his unfailing interest in the social, intellectual and religious development of the community. The spirit was always willing, and but for the flesh, that was weak, he would have done far more. Up to the very end

of his life his sympathies and efforts continued to be enlisted in behalf of various useful and beneficent enterprises of a public character.

The end came on the third day of August, 1874. "At evening time it shall be light." The prediction has a true fulfillment in his dying hour. For months his exhausted system had been struggling with a complication of disorders, and a third stroke of paralysis brought him to his dying bed. Peacefully in the dusk and hush of the August evening he passed away: dying in the house where forty years before he had been married, and attended to the last by her, who from that hour had been really his earthly rod and staff, and whose sagacious counsel and reverent love had never failed him.

His funeral was attended on the Wednesday following in the village church, where, while living, he had so often ministered in the Master's name. The impressive exercises centered around an address of touching pathos and singular power by his brother John. His body was carried to Greenwood Cemetery, and there the next day, Thursday, it being his mother's birthday, was laid by that of his beloved and only daughter Lillie, who had died many years before.

While Mr. Abbot would have been the last to disavow his share of the weaknesses and errors which are common to us all, yet, if there were ever a truly religious nature, his was one. He was preëminently a man of prayer. He loved the hymns of the church, and could repeat more of them, than some hymn books contain. They were on his tongue's end in his sickness, when other words refused to do his bidding. With any less of trust and resignation, and of the conscious presence of the Saviour, he could not have endured as he did the trials of his closing years—the wasting away of physical powers, the loss of property,

the necessary parting with much that was tenderly cherished, the dependence upon others, and often intense pain and prolonged suffering. And yet, constant and faithful as were the ministrations of his kindred and friends, nothing was so grateful and truly sustaining to him, as the privilege of reposing on God, and leaving all earthly care with him.

The year 1874 was crowded with the deaths of eminent men—among clergymen such as: Rev. Drs. N. C. Burt, Thomas DeWitt, Joseph Haven, E. N. Kirk, Henry W. Lee, T. A. Morris, Solomon Peck, J. H. Whitehouse and James Wallace; but to few of them could heartier tributes have been paid, either in public or private, than to Mr. Abbot. In substance some of these tributes are found under the head of "Appreciations."

II.

MRS. ABBOT'S native place was South Natick, and the house in which she was born and married still stands. She attended school first at a Mr. Emerson's in Beverly [or Saugus]; a teacher who, as she afterwards used to say, exerted a great religious influence over her mind. After this, she was a pupil in Miss Grant's school in Ipswich, and then a teacher in the same for about a year. From Ipswich she went to Waltham, and there conducted a school of her own. It was from Waltham that her reputation as a teacher reached Boston, and it was to Waltham that Mr. Abbot was sent to engage her services for the Mount Vernon School. The acquaintance, thus begun, ran at once into a deep attachment, and ended in marriage. Miss Leach, however, first remained in her connection with the Mount Vernon School some five years.

The marriage was solemnized at South Natick on the eleventh day of February, 1834. Members of her own family alone were present; but her welcome to the family of her husband was exceedingly affectionate and sincere. No wife ever linked herself more heartily and entirely to her husband's fortunes, than did she; her work of faith, patience of hope, and labor of love, through forty years of married life, contributed materially to his strength and success. Her qualities of mind and person were such, as to inspire the reverence of all who met her, and the affection of all who knew her. Her figure was commanding, her dignity was impressive, her address was winning. She was a woman of decided *character*; yet, the dominating force which she carried into every circle of relation and influence, was clothed with such gentleness and sweetness, as to give it a peculiar charm.

With the Spingler Institute in New York, in its various forms, her connection was always close and vital. She was more than the wife of its principal. Not habitually instructing in the class-room, she was yet the soul of the household, and her intellectual and moral presence was felt throughout the entire establishment.

The winter of 1874-5, following Mr. Abbot's death, Mrs. Abbot spent in the family of her husband's nephew, Rev. Edward Abbott, in Cambridge, Mass.; returning for the summer to her lonely South Natick home. In the autumn she accepted an invitation to pass the winter of 1875-6 with her husband's brother, Rev. John S. C. Abbott, in Fair Haven, Conn. A strong inducement to this arrangement was the hope of finding some useful and congenial whiling away of her time in the school for young ladies, conducted in the house by his daughter, Miss Ellen W. Abbott; a hope in which she was not disappointed. It seemed afterward a fitting and pleasant thing that her life should have come to its close amid somewhat of the same scene and atmosphere which had enveloped the greater part of it elsewhere.

About the 24th of March she fell ill, no one knew exactly how; except that it was true that she had had much trouble with a cough all through the winter. By Saturday, the 25th, she had taken to her bed, and the services of a nurse were required. The physician pronounced the attack a severe bronchial inflammation, with a tendency to congestion, and expressed some doubts as to the result. From the outset she seemed to realize the gravity of her situation, and calmly made her preparations for the possible issue of death. Her disease brought her much suffering at times, but when free from distress she lay patiently and placidly, and took great comfort in the recitation of Scripture, the reading of hymns, and the offering of prayer, by



the various members of the household who waited in turn at her bedside.

Just at eight o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, March the 29th, she fell gently asleep, surrounded by the members of the household, who from the beginning had ministered so lovingly to her wants.

“ So fades the summer cloud away;  
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er;  
So gently shuts the eye of day;  
So dies a wave along the shore.”

With her, as it had been with her husband, it was just such a death, as is imaged in these beautiful and familiar lines.

On Saturday afternoon, at three, her remains were laid away in Greenwood, prayer being offered by the former pastor of the family, the beloved Rev. Dr. Prentiss, while the hymn, “God is the refuge of His saints,” was sung simply by the little company of kindred and friends who stood by; the same hymn, sung by almost the same voices, as at the burial of her husband a year and nine months before.

And here we leave them, husband, wife and daughter, sainted three: sleeping the sleep that knows no waking “until the day break and the shadows flee away.” One plain but massive marble stone, of Mrs. Abbot's own selection, marks the spot, and in the three simple inscriptions upon its face, their memories are bound up together.

## CHAPTER SECOND.

### PALMS FOR THE VICTORS.

*From "A Brief Memorial."*

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT (Presbyterian), corner Park Avenue and Thirty-Fifth Street.—REV. MARVIN R. VINCENT, D.D., Pastor, will preach SUNDAY MORNING. Service at 11 o'clock. At 4 P. M., Rev. Lyman Abbott will deliver an address, commemorative of the late Rev. Gorham D. and Mrs. Rebecca S. Abbot, formerly Principals of the Spingler Institute of this city. Friends and former pupils are invited to be present.



UCH was the notice, in the New York Tribune of the twenty-second of April, 1876, which drew to the Church of the Covenant, on the Sabbath afternoon following, a congregation including many of the kindred and former friends of those who were gone. With the Church of the Covenant, not only in its present house on Park Avenue, but in the earlier one on Mercer Street, Mr. and Mrs. Abbot both, had been connected; making the place peculiarly appropriate for the service contemplated. After the usual voluntary, the twenty-second chapter of the Revelation was read by Rev. Dr. Vincent; the hymn, "It is not death to die," was sung; and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. S. I. Prime; after which followed in turn the singing of the hymn, "Oh for the death of those;" an address by Rev. Lyman Abbott; remarks by Rev. Dr. Vincent; an address by Rev. Dr. G. L. Prentiss; and singing, again, of the hymn, "Give me the wings of faith;" the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Prentiss, bringing the exercises to a close. "The service," said the New York Observer,

“ was very interesting and appropriate, and was an affecting testimonial of respect for the memory of those, who have contributed largely and widely to the cause of female education, and whose names are dear to thousands of females throughout the land.”

The prayer and addresses were as follows:

PRAYER BY REV. DR. PRIME.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God! With Thee there is no beginning of days nor end of years. Men die; the places that knew them once, know them no more forever; but Thou art the same yesterday, and today, and forever; and with Thee there is no variableness neither shadow of turning. What is man, or the son of man, that Thou shouldst be mindful of him? Oh, may a sense of Thy glory fall upon us and make us suitably afraid, when we contrast the shortness of our own lives with Thy eternity. Oh God, we thank Thee for the faithful lives of those who have passed away before us; for the example they have left us of fidelity to Thy service. We thank Thee for all the good which Thou hast permitted them to accomplish here in the earth; and we praise Thee, O God, that we are permitted to enjoy the fruits of their instruction, and profit by what we have received from them in times that are past; and that we are permitted to enjoy also life and health and strength, that we may improve the privileges we have had, and work still longer in Thy vineyard. We desire, O God, especially, met together as we are this afternoon in these memorial services, to record with gratitude all Thy goodness unto those who have been called away; and while we delight in the precious memories which gather in our hearts in connection with them, we pray that

we may also be stimulated ourselves to greater fidelity in Thy service; to a spirit of higher consecration of ourselves to God. May we delight to spend and be spent for Him who, though He was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. We pray Thee, O God, that Thy blessing may come down upon all those who formerly sat under the tuition of those whom we commemorate this afternoon—scattered abroad as they are over our land, and in other lands; wheresoever they may be, we pray that the spirit of God may possess their hearts and minds; that their educated intellects may be consecrated to God, and that they may be the means of perpetuating the influence of those who have been called away. O Lord, grant Thy blessing upon the children and youth of our country. May they be trained up in Thy service and in Thy fear. Grant, O God, that the spirit of the Lord may descend upon all our institutions of learning, and that from them may go out from generation to generation precious influences for the purification and the salvation of the church and the world. From our land may there go out into all lands the light of knowledge, and the light of civil liberty, and the still more glorious light of the Gospel of Christ, until all the earth shall be filled with the knowledge and the glory of Thy great name. Be with us while we are engaged in these interesting and solemn services. May Thy blessing come down richly upon those who shall speak to us, and may their words sink into our hearts with power, and as good seed may they spring up to bear fruit in after days. Qualify us each and every one for whatever service we are called to do; may we do it with our might as unto the Lord; and whether we preach, or whether we teach, or whether we learn, or whether we engage in the secular business of the world, may we all have our talents and our

opportunities and our minds devoted to God, feeling that we are not our own, but have been bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ. And may we so live, that when we come to die, we shall look back upon lives well spent in Thy service, and may we then receive a welcome into Thy presence and into Thy joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## REMARKS BY REV. DR. VINCENT.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbot were connected with this church organization from its beginning. After the recent death of Mrs. Abbot it was thought that a memorial service of this character would be a pleasant recognition of those valued and faithful servants of God, not only to members of this church and congregation in which their hearts were much interested during their lives, but also to the various pupils, so many of whom remain in our city, who have passed under their Christian tuition. Accordingly, a few weeks ago, the committee of the members of this church, together with the former pastor, Rev. Dr. Prentiss and Prof. Smith, requested Rev. Lyman Abbott to prepare a memorial discourse, to present to us on this occasion. You will now be addressed by Mr. Abbott.

## ADDRESS BY REV. LYMAN ABBOTT.

We have met here this day, consecrated to the honor and worship of our God, not to turn aside from that higher service to the lower one of honoring man. We have not forgotten our Master's direction: "Let the dead bury their dead; follow thou Me." Yet neither do we forget that He who teaches us ever by His own divine example, teaches us perpetually by the example of His followers, that these letters, known and read of all men, which He is continually

writing with His own hand in the lives of His disciples, are a part of His greater unfinished Bible; that to read the story of His present grace is sometimes as helpful to us and as honoring to Him, as to turn back the pages of history to read what He wrought in Peter and John and Paul eighteen hundred years ago; that sainthood did not perish when the first century closed; and that it is the triumph of His grace and the glory of His name, to make saints out of very common stuff, just such material as that of which you and I are made.

I wish that the duty of speaking here to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot might have been assigned to one of his brothers rather, than to a nephew, or at least to one better acquainted with their earlier life, its methods, its struggles, its achievements. Yet I gladly bear part in this testimonial, less to them as individuals, than to those Christian principles and that Christian faith, of which they afforded to all who knew them, so signal an example.

Measured by the ordinary standards of success, the life of Mr. Gorham Abbot was not a success. Your presence here is itself a protest against the measurements which a great commercial metropolis prescribes. It is an ambition of men, not wholly an ignoble one, to leave behind as a testimony to their productive industry and their wise economy, a fortune. Though Mr. Abbot possessed at one time a competence, dying he left neither an heir, nor an estate. It is an ambition of men to achieve a reputation and leave a name, written in characters less evanescent than Longfellow's famous footsteps on the sands of time. Today the names of Mr. and Mrs. Gorham Abbot are honored, and their memories are cherished, in the homes presided over by their pupils, not one of whom, I think, fails to preserve, as a sacred keepsake, the recollection of the hours spent in

the dear old Spingler. But with the present generation their names will pass away, or be preserved only in a single paragraph of a few lines in the biographical dictionaries, or the annals of American education. It is the ambition of men to leave behind them some great work, some enduring monument, which shall perpetuate to future generations their name and the memory of their service. Wiser than the Egyptian kings, we build for our pyramids a Vassar College, a Lenox Library, or a Cooper Union. But the institution which Mr. and Mrs. Abbot founded, did not survive them. Unlike the ship that lives to breast many a storm, and carry many a passenger, after the enfeebled and disabled captain leaves it, Abbot's Institute was broken up, when her commanders left her deck; not even the honored name has been preserved in any like institutions of learning. It was the one sacred ambition of my uncle's life to establish a college for the daughters, that should be the peer of Harvard or of Yale. By successive enlargements of the Institution, he seemed almost to have reached the realization of this cherished purpose, when the outbreak of the civil war, and consequent unparalleled business derangements, involved it in financial disaster from which it never recovered. Thus thwarted and disappointed, and finally compelled by failing health and disastrous circumstances to abandon his hope, he lived to see others realize his own plans, and convert his castle in the air, into a solid structure. With all his industrious rubbing, no genie of the lamp appeared to do his bidding. It was his only to conceive the palace; other Aladdins built and dwelt in it. Like Michael Angelo, he formed the design of the cathedral, which others were raised up to construct. Like Moses, the land toward which he had for so many years so patiently and toilsomely journeyed, he was allowed only to see from afar.

Nevertheless, his life was a success. He left more than a fortune, more than a name, more than an institution behind him; he left an impulse. He came as the south wind comes; which breath, laden with the life of spring, blows across a continent. It is here; it is gone; and we forget its coming and its departure. But it leaves behind it an inheritance which makes summer sweet, autumn rich, and winter itself bright with both, memories of the past and hopes of the future. So such a life as that of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot (I speak of their confluent lives as one) leaves the sacred fruits of its influence to be garnered by those who have forgotten, or who never knew, the summery influence which made their harvest possible.

It is hard for us today to realize the condition of the public mind on the subject of woman's education when they began their life work. So radical and so revolutionary a change was never before wrought in public sentiment so quietly and in so short a time. So great a victory was never won over prejudices so entrenched, with so little noise of artillery, and so little music of either defiance before, or triumph afterward. A hundred years ago no one claimed for women the right to a comprehensive education; today no one denies that right.

When in 1845 the seed of the Spingler Institute was planted, there was not, I think, a true collegiate institution for women in the land. The popular theology held that God made man for himself, but woman for man; she had not yet learned the answer in the Catechism. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever; she had not yet come into her inheritance—the right to be all that the largest development can make her, the right to use all the endowments which her divine Creator has given to her. The educational controversies of the age were be-



tween those who sought to fit her for service in the kitchen, and those who sought to fit her for ornament in the drawing-room; her curriculum vibrated between instruction in the arts of cooking, sweeping and dusting, and those of embroidery, piano playing, and a little French; her philosophical instruments were the needle, the dust-brush, and the cook-stove. A learned woman was an object of satire, as an ignorant man was one of scorn. The world had not yet learned from Florence Nightingale what are the possibilities of Christian philanthropy, when directed by a woman's persevering, patient love; nor from Mrs. Browning and Mrs. Stowe, what are the veins of literature which she can open and mine; nor from Mrs. Somerville and Miss Mitchell what are her scientific possibilities of attainment. If one, more radical than his fellows, demanded for his sister the right to study the classics and the higher mathematics, he was met with the annihilating response: How will acquaintance with logarithms make her a better housekeeper, or a knowledge of Greek roots a better cook? That she had a right to be something more and higher than either cook or housekeeper, a right to be a woman, with every part of her nature developed by study and enriched by culture; a right, as a daughter of God, to share with her brother in the fruits of the tree of knowledge which God has made free to all his children; was neither claimed by herself nor allowed her by others. The ancient Greek, the modern Hindoo, idea of womanhood was not yet supplanted by that of a Christianity, which knows neither bond nor free, neither male nor female; and that monstrous travesty on woman's rights which, in lieu of maintaining her right to a full-orbed womanhood, has vainly sought to make a man of her, cast ill-deserved obloquy on the few, who believed that God made man and woman equal, none

the less because they believed that He had made them unlike.

Then it was that Mr. Abbot laid before him the pattern according to which, with undeviating fidelity, he wrought throughout his life. I do not think he saw his aim more clearly at the end, than at the beginning. It was at once his weakness and his strength that he aimed at unattainable results; that his ideals lay far above his utmost reach. His expressed purpose in the foundation of the Spingler Institute was this, to give to America's daughters an education as broad, as generous, as thorough, as America gave her sons, and to this end, to establish a college for girls, that should be as rich in all its endowments, as any that generous wealth in the past had given to boys. He saw in a vision, what Mr. Vassar in our own State, and Mr. Durant in Massachusetts, have made real, and without wealth, and at the outset with no other influence than such as an earnest and unselfish purpose always confers, he labored for its realization. In the old Spingler at Union Square he constructed a chapel patterned after those of our colleges; he purchased, at no inconsiderable expense, a valuable philosophical apparatus; he provided courses of lectures in the physical sciences; he hung upon his walls the finest pictures of America's then first artists; he sought abroad the best copies of the best works of some of the great artists of the past. His one uniform answer to the cavils of unbelievers or the doubts of skeptics was a simple continuance in well doing. He made few speeches; he wrote few articles; he entered into no debate. He left his pupils to answer by their womanly, wifely, motherly lives, in hundreds of happy, cultured Christian homes, the bitter sneers or the honest doubts of those, who believed that ignorance is the mother of virtue. They have given the

answer, and they have given it well. And, I think, Christian America no longer tolerates Hindoo civilization, or doubts that the highest Christian culture is the best preparation for the sacred duties of the priestess of God's first church, the family.

From this one purpose Mr. Abbot never turned aside. When, in what I cannot but regard as the one mistake of his life, he seemed to do so, to engage in ventures apart from his chosen work, it was but to supply himself with means to accomplish this mission. His pursuit of it was characterized by an unselfish devotion to the end. In long and repeated conferences with Mr. Vassar he communicated to the founder of Vassar College the fruits of his own study and experience; and he held himself well repaid when, after his own Institute had been discontinued, he was permitted to see the result of his own labors in an Institution, in whose fame and fortune he had no part. A pioneer, he was content to clear the way, and to see others build in regions which he had redeemed from the wilderness. He himself would be first to resent the injustice of seeming to ignore other laborers in this field, other pioneers as brave, as hardy, as determined as himself; but I shall do no injustice to any one in saying, that among them all there was no one who perceived the end from the beginning more clearly, or pursued it with greater singleness of aim, greater unselfishness of purpose, and greater patience and persistence of Christian hope, than Mr. Abbot.

If I have thus far spoken of Mr. Abbot chiefly, it is only because she, whose delight it was to merge her life in his, would wish, I am sure, on this occasion, to hide her own name under the shadow of her husband's. But those who knew them both will echo with feeling the declaration of his brother, in a private note to me: "In my judgment

the success of Abbot Institute was as much owing to Rebecca, as to himself."

If we inquire into the secret of Mr. Abbot's purpose, and of the real success in seeming failure which he attained, we must go back to his childhood, back to a mother who inspired him with a noble idea of true womanhood, who taught him, less by her words than by her sympathies and the mere force of her own strong character, that it were far better to die in poverty, having served God and His children, than to die in wealth after a life consecrated to self alone; who taught her children every Sabbath evening hymns with the Catechism, and inspired them with a cheerful onlooking to the garden of God, which made religious hope at once a strength in life and a consolation in death; who pictured death never as with scythe in hand, cutting down remorselessly the flowers in his path, but always as a tender gardener transporting the bloom and life of earth to

"Those everlasting gardens

Where angels walk and seraphs are the wardens,  
And every flower, brought safe through death's dark portal,  
Becomes immortal."

The religion of New England is like her mountains; cold, hard, and forbidding it often seems to those, who look at it only from afar. But those who know it, know that in truth it is clothed with verdure and beauty, and that from its heart there issue perpetual springs of living water, which the frosts of winter never freeze, and the droughts of summer never dry. This was the religion in which Mr. Abbot was nurtured. We must also recall the portrait of another woman, who presided over the Vaughan family library of nearly twelve thousand volumes, and who opened its treasures freely to the Abbott boys, and gave

them, perhaps more than any other teacher, those literary tastes, which determined the course of their later lives. To these two women Mr. Abbot owed his first high ideals of womanhood. Later life confirmed his faith in the possibilities of woman's culture. If he never doubted for one instant, as he never did, that the highest culture and the most queenly grace is quite consistent with a matronly modesty and a wifely devotion, who shall say how far it was due to the fact that his wife was always with him, to demonstrate by her presence the truth he held so sacredly? If he succeeded wonderfully in impressing upon his pupils his ideal of a true womanhood, as he certainly did, who shall say how far that success was due to the fact that his wife perpetually and unconsciously exemplified to the sight what he could but paint to the imagination? To his mother, to the teacher of his boyhood, and to his wife, he owed, under God, that conception of womanhood, as an ideal, which he has done so much to make real.

In the achievement of this work three elements in his character will be recognized by all who knew him, as contributing to his success. I speak of them here today, less to honor the dead, than to point out to the living the secret of that subtle power which we call influence.

1. He was a man of high ideals,—quite too high they seemed to practical men, sometimes in fact too high for possible achievement with the means at his command. His faith was of the sort that removes mountains. He never rested content with the merely practical; he was always aiming at the possible. He never was satisfied to meet the average expectations of men; he framed in imagination the highest ideal, and worked patiently toward it. The world is apt to think lightly of such a visionary nature, and to greet him as Joseph was greeted by his brethren:

"Behold this dreamer cometh." But were it not for the dreamers, the world would make no progress. This idealism was characteristic of everything Mr. Abbot planned or purposed. Some of you will remember his intense interest in a proposed ship canal across the Isthmus of Nicaragua, and a map which he had constructed, showing all the commerce between East and West converging there. Was it a dream? Perhaps. Wait and see. This idealism colored his religious experience. The second coming of our Lord, which is but as a dim and distant hope to most of us, seemed just at hand to him; the "new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness," which is but a poem or a picture to most of us, were a glad reality to him. No ideal of moral and spiritual excellence, for a man or woman, seemed to him impossible. Nothing which he could *think* did he believe impossible for God to *do*. It was this large idealism which made him one of the most inspiring teachers, and study under him never a drudgery, rarely a task, almost always a delight.

The world is in no great danger from its idealists. There is no such book of ideals as the Bible. When we have done our utmost to picture the full glory of the term "sons of God," this Book still tells us that there lies beyond that highest conception an unconceived ideal in the future to be attained, for we know not what we shall be; when we have vainly sought to fathom the meaning of a promise that offers us all of the fullness of God, this Book declares to us that our God has for us in the future something more than we can as yet ask or even think; when the imagination has wrought its highest conception of the possibilities of character, this Book still assures us that beyond what the eye has seen, beyond what the ear has heard, beyond what it has entered into the heart of man to conceive, are

the things which God hath prepared for those, who love Him.

2. Mr. Abbot was not an intellectual opium-eater, to revel in the mere luxury of day-dreaming. His imagination was that of an architect; what he saw, he endeavored to uprear. He believed in the possibility of realizing his ideals, and he sought to do so; and whatever he thus undertook, he pursued with a persistence of force and a patience of spirit, that nothing could daunt, and only absolutely invincible obstacles could thwart. "The spirit in which he encountered obstacles," says one of his brothers in a note to me, "was not a belligerent or combative one, but a patient holding on, so to speak, till the difficulties in the way were removed by the action of Divine Providence, or by his own patient and steady pressure against them." This combination of persistence and patience is rare, and always accomplishes rare results. Persistent men are common; strong in their own opinions; resolute; determined; going on their way like a locomotive on its track, butting against whatever stands across their pathway, and not infrequently bringing themselves and their plans into irretrievable ruin by the needless collision. Patient men there are too; despairingly patient; hopelessly patient; holding on to their thought long after they have abandoned all hope of realizing it. But to start for a promised land, to see the end from the beginning, to know that it is there, and then to find a whole generation unable to see beyond the horizon of the present wilderness, depressed to-day for lack of water and to-morrow by lack of food, unbelieving in God, unhopeful of the future, and looking ever longingly back to a past to which they can never return, and still patiently unmurmuringly, steadily to press forward toward the goal that no one else perceives, sustained by a faith and a hope

which few or none else share; this requires a persistence and patience that, combined, amount to almost a moral genius.

Such men, however cheerful, are always attuned to a minor key. The blindness of others, unable to see what they see, oppresses them. A sense of pity for souls that never look up to the cloud of glory that goes before, saddens them. They learn to be patient, because they are pitiful. You that can recall his face in its seasons of repose will remember, I am sure, the gentle, almost womanly sense of sorrow for humanity that was in it. You that knew him intimately will be able to recall the tones of pathos in which he so often said, sorrowfully for others who could not see what he thought he saw, and whose inertia was sometimes an invincible obstacle to the fulfillment of his cherished designs: "Well, Rebecca, you can't expect that they will understand it. We must wait; we must wait."

3. The idealist is of all men the most miserable, if he have not to sustain him in the disappointments of this life, hope of a future glory and faith in a present grace. Of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot's Christian experience their pastor will speak from more intimate knowledge and with greater freedom, than I could do. Yet this brief analysis would be strangely inadequate, if I did not at least allude to their Christian faith as the foundation and the inspiration of their life-work. He believed that his mission was given him by his Master, and that in it he was doing, not his own, but his Father's will. He did not seek the living among the dead; he believed not merely in a Christ that died eighteen hundred years ago for the sins of the world, but also in a Christ, that liveth and reigneth now. His Saviour was neither a memory nor a hope, but a living reality; and not



Moses in the mountain top, nor the disciples at Emmaus, nor Peter and John by the Sea of Galilee, were more assured of the personal presence of a helpful Lord, than was he cheered and sustained by daily intercourse with a risen and living Saviour. To him it was no vain promise: "Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world." To him there was no paradox in Christ's declaration: "It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you." He believed it. Believed it? He *knew it*.

There is surely no greater success than that, which no disaster can destroy. That success Mr. and Mrs. Abbot achieved. They were rich in their poverty; they were happy in their sorrow; they were exultant in their disappointments.

I wish I were a painter, and I would set before you a picture on which you could not look unmoved. Their last days were spent in a little cottage, a few miles out of Boston. A few books, saved out of the large library which in his prosperity he had accumulated, constituted Mr. Abbot's almost sole companions. The study of the Bible was almost his sole occupation. The broken hopes and shattered ambitions of his youth lay behind him. Without children, without wealth, without large fame, without wide influence, without monumental success, with broken health—his hopes were never higher, his joy never deeper, his love never richer, his life never happier. For his hopes took hold of heaven; his joy had all its springs in God; and he, who had been loved in his prosperity for his own sake, was not forgotten by pupils or friends, in the days of seeming loneliness and adversity. I recall the last night I spent beneath his roof. In the morning, after a simple breakfast, we sat down to family devotions. The open Bible it

seemed impossible for him to close. The forenoon sped away in conversation, and in comparison of Scripture with Scripture. And when, all too soon, to his surprise and mine, the arrival of the carriage that was to take us to the station admonished us that it was noon, though he had not been out of the house before for a week, and though a misty rain was beginning to fall, he insisted, with that old-time courtesy so characteristic of him, on escorting my wife to the gateway, carrying her hand-bag for her; and to my expressed fears lest the prolonged conversation should have wearied and injured him, Mrs. Abbot, with an April face, in which smiles and tears struggled for the mastery, and love shone through both, replied: "Lyman, your uncle has had no better medicine for many a day, than this morning's Christian conversation." And so we bade him Good-bye.

Some of you will remember what a favorite with him was that peerless pictorial allegory, Cole's Voyage of Life. I have sometimes thought it was because he unconsciously felt in it a prophecy of his own life: the babe coming out of the dark cavernous past, guided and guarded by the unseen angel; the youth oblivious of his immediate surroundings, and pressing forward, with his eager eye fixed upon a light air-castle, luminous before him; the man, dauntless in the swift rapids bearing him resistlessly toward, he knows not what new dangers, yet unfearing, because his guardian angel is his God, and guides and will preserve him; the old man, waiting on the smooth and open sea, life's perils past, till the heavens shall receive him to themselves. What matter then how battered and poor the hulk he leaves behind him? In his life the Christian disciple fulfilled the prophecy of the Christian artist.

God grant that we, disciples of our Lord, may so live, with hopes so high in our youth, with purposes so daunt-

less in our manhood, that our old age shall be as serene, and our going home as peaceful, as was theirs, whose memory we, this day, cherish.

ADDRESS BY REV. DR. PRENTISS.

I have been desired to say a few words about our departed friends as their old pastor. They were members of the Mercer Street congregation when I took charge of it, more than five and twenty years ago. There, I first made their acquaintance. They both took a very deep interest in the formation of this church, and the name of Mrs. Abbot stands first on the roll of its original members. Their attachment to it grew stronger from year to year, and when they removed from the city, perhaps their sharpest trial was leaving the Church of the Covenant. They never referred to it and to the happy years passed in its fellowship without the tenderest emotion. Rarely have I seen a more striking manifestation of that affectionate, devoted church feeling, which seems to me one of the most beautiful traits of American piety. To how many thousands of Christian men, women and children, all over the land, is their old church, the local church, after the old home itself, still the dearest spot on earth, the shrine of their sweetest and holiest memories. It was so with our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Abbot. If what we do here is known and gives pleasure, as I cannot but think it does, to those in the better country, I am sure the holding of this memorial service in the church they so much loved, will render it doubly gratifying to the friends we commemorate.

I certainly shall not add a word to what has been so well said respecting Dr. Abbot's aims and work as an educator. I will only say a few words about his Christian character. I had the opportunity during the later years of his life, of

a somewhat intimate acquaintance with his religious history. There were some features of it which deeply interested me at the time, and have always interested me since,—features quite unknown, I imagine, to most of those, who had only casual intercourse with him. One of the best tests of a man's real quality is the impression made upon you by the thought of him after he has left the world—after the mere prejudices and prepossessions of the passing hour, whether for or against him, have died out, and no longer bias the judgment. There were two things about Mr. Abbot which made the deepest impression upon me, as his pastor and friend, while he lived, and they make even a deeper impression now, as I remember him. The first was his ardent and unwearied delight in studying the word of God. It was an absorbing passion. I have met with very few men in all my pastoral experience to whom it was so clear to me that the word of God, especially the New Testament, was an object of the deepest, most tender and reverential devotion. Just before coming to this service I took up a little volume, Bagster's beautiful edition of the Greek Testament, with the English and the references, and I found Mr. Abbot's name in it, written very soon after I became pastor of the Mercer Street Church. It was the first gift he made me as his pastor. He could not have given a book more characteristic and more indicative of what I afterwards found to be a principal phase of his religious life and character. His Greek-English Testament was his *vade mecum*. He carried it about with him wherever he went, and studied it, as though it was every day a new revelation. He took infinite delight, as I know from his own lips, in the best part of it; for I think there are some parts of the New Testament that are richer, more spiritual, I may even say better, than others. The discourses of our Lord in the

fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth chapters of St. John's Gospel: these he knew by heart. All those passages which tell us that Christ is not a dead Saviour; that He is not buried away back eighteen hundred years ago in Judea; and that He is not merely a Saviour that is to come, whom by and by we are to see; but that He is a living Saviour, and, more than that, that He is not only living in heaven above us, but that He lives in the soul of every one of His true disciples,—all those passages which relate to these great central truths of the Christian life, were, as I know, especially dear to him.

The second thing that impressed me, was his intense personal love and devotion to the Saviour. During the later years of his life, especially, after its conflicts, mortifications and disappointments had brought him more fully in contact with the consoling truths of the Gospel, this feature was most marked. What more than anything else purged away his dross (for he had his weaknesses and faults and imperfections, as we all have), brought out his faith in full triumph, and gave him victory and peace and joy in the midst of all the disasters of life of which we have heard, was the refining, uplifting power of his personal devotion to Christ as a living, ever-present Friend and Saviour. It was a real thing with him, just as real as your love to the dearest friend you have on earth. And put that sentiment into any human heart, I do not care whether it is the most cultivated man or woman in Christendom, or the most debased or savage in heathendom,—put real personal love to Jesus Christ, absolute devotion to Him as a Friend and Saviour, into any human soul, and it will purge away the dross; it will transfigure, illumine, deliver, and bless that soul! I recall expressions the most varied and emphatic of this feeling of Mr. Abbot towards the Saviour, uttered in the

privacy of Christian talk and fellowship. I could not doubt that it was the ruling passion of his soul. A friend was speaking to him one day of the dangerous illness of a near relative, intimating that she might die in a few days. "Only to think," he remarked, "only to think of being with Christ in a few days! I wish it were my own case!" Some time before his death he transcribed and sent to the friend just referred to, two hymns as expressive of his own feelings. The first is entitled "The Communion of Saints." I will read from it two stanzas:<sup>1</sup>

" Would I could cling more closely to my Master;  
 Would that in Him my sinking soul could rest;  
 Would that each shipwrecked hope, each new disaster,  
 Might drive me closer to my Saviour's breast.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Prentiss has taken the pains to send to the compiler the identical transcript here alluded to. There are seven stanzas in all, those quoted in the address being the last two. The manuscript gives no hint of the authorship, nor can the hymn be found in any one of a dozen or more collections of religious poetry. The first five stanzas are as follows, the close connection of the title being necessary to the sense of the opening line :

#### THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

- " That source of purest pleasure! I am pining  
 To drink more deeply of its limpid wave,  
 To feel the silken bonds I know are twining  
 Round all who recognize Christ's power to save.
- " I know there *is* a secret *spirit union*,  
 Linking the hearts of all who love the Lord;  
 I long to realize that blest communion,  
 Sweeter than aught else nature can afford.
- " From heart to heart the holy fire is leaping,  
 He who is Love dwells with His people still,  
 But each within himself the guest is keeping,  
 And the sealed lips control the secret thrill.
- " Why is it thus? At the same altar kneeling,  
 Hoping to share a common home at last,  
 One in our faith, to the same God appealing,  
 Why is this chill reserve between us cast?
- " O there are times when, all its barriers breaking,  
 My spirit *claims* communion with the rest,  
 When to some new perception of its waking,  
 It utters cries that cannot be repressed."

“ Then, nevermore for earth’s communion pining,  
Longing no more for human sympathy,  
Upon Thy arm my weary head reclining,  
Give me to find, O Christ, my all in Thee.”

The other is entitled “ The Need of Jesus; ” “ Unto you who believe He is precious.” I will read the two closing verses :<sup>1</sup>

“ I need Thee, precious Jesus, I need Thee day by day,  
To fill me with Thy fullness; to lead me on my way.  
I need Thy Holy Spirit, to teach me what I am,  
To show me more of Jesus, to point me to the Lamb !

“ I need Thee, precious Jesus, and hope to see Thee soon,  
Encircled with a rainbow, and seated on Thy throne;  
There with Thy blood-bought children my joy shall ever be  
To sing Thy praises, Jesus, to gaze, my Lord, on Thee.”

Of Mrs. Abbot, who has just followed her beloved husband into the world of light, it is needless for me to utter many words. A character so pure, so simple, so translucent as hers, requires no description. Nature and grace conspired to form her a most lovely Christian woman. What gentleness! What true-hearted kindness! What loving

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<sup>1</sup> The first four verses, reprinted from the same manuscript copy, are as follows :

“ I need Thee, precious Jesus, for I am full of sin,  
My soul is dark and guilty, my heart is dead within;  
I need the cleansing fountain, where I can always flee;  
The blood of Christ most precious, the sinner’s perfect plea.

“ I need Thee, precious Jesus, for I am very poor;  
A stranger and a pilgrim, I have no earthly store;  
I need the love of Jesus, to cheer me on my way,  
To guide my doubting footsteps, to be my strength and stay.

“ I need Thee, precious Jesus, I need a friend like Thee,  
A friend to soothe and sympathize, a friend to care for me,  
I need the heart of Jesus, to feel each anxious care,  
To tell my every want, and all my sorrows share.

“ I need Thee, Precious Jesus, for I am very blind,  
A weak and foolish wanderer, with dark and evil mind;  
I need the light of Jesus, to tread the thorny road,  
To guide me safe to glory, where I shall see my God.”

patience! What sweet charity was hers! Many years ago (several years before I knew her) a great and withering affliction tinged her whole life with sadness; but it was a sadness which only endeared her the more to her friends, and added new depth and tenderness to the kindly affections and sympathies of her nature.

What pleasant grateful memories does the thought of her revive in the hearts of hundreds of old pupils, scattered far and wide over our land and in distant lands. I am sure these memories will be fresh and fragrant as long as her old pupils live,—fresh and fragrant in our hearts, too, as long as we shall live.

We call this a memorial service. But in truth it is rather a service of hope, than of memory. It carries our thoughts upward and onward into the blessed and eternal future, rather than back into the vanished past. Our dear friends, with whom we have parted company on these mortal shores, have rejoined each other and their beloved one that went before, in the

“ Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood,”

and there entered upon a nobler life—even the life everlasting—in the presence of their God and Redeemer!

Let us follow that same divine Master with careful and diligent footsteps; and in due time, dear friends, we also shall have crossed the flood, and find ourselves in the presence of that beatific vision. How many, many memories, sweet, precious memories, come thronging upon my mind as I stand here, and cast my eye where these two dear friends and other friends, both theirs and mine, used to sit and feed upon the Bread of Life. To us, who are growing old, who are far along in life, how large a majority of those we used to love, seem to be on the other side of the river!



How fast the ranks are thinning! Well, blessed be God that it is so! Heaven is better than earth. This is not our rest. We are pilgrims and strangers here, as all our fathers were. Let us confess it, and so press on with renewed zeal toward the City which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch, as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

## III.

## APPRECIATIONS.

Below are appended extracts from some of the many tributary notices of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot which appeared subsequently to their deaths. They form a proper part of the biographic record, and possess an interest for most of those, into whose hands this little volume will fall.

[From the Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1874.]

Dr. Abbot . . . enjoyed high reputation as a classical and Biblical scholar, as a student of general literature, and as an almost unequalled head of an Institution for the training of the young.

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[From the Boston Daily Advertiser.]

An enthusiast in his profession, Dr. Abbot was likewise a fine scholar, was especially versed in Biblical literature, and was the author of a History of Mexico and other works. . . . His death . . . will be noted with true sorrow by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances, both in this country and abroad. The name of his pupils merely is legion, while his useful life has laid many departments of true progress under lasting obligation.

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[From the Independent.]

A circle of brothers, eminent alike for services to literature and religion, was broken by the death in Natick, Mass., on the 3d of this month, of Dr. Gorham D. Abbot. . . . Dr. Abbot was the younger brother of Jacob Abbott and Rev. John S. C. Abbott; but adopted what he considered the original spelling of the name. His services to education will preserve his name in

many homes, and by his friends he will be remembered as a man of unusual geniality and purity of character, to meet whom was to win a place in everybody's esteem. Toward the close of his life he took especial pleasure in Biblical studies, and our readers will remember that his last interesting and able communication to this journal was on a branch of this subject.

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[From the Providence Journal.]

The death of Rev. Gorham D. Abbot, which took place at his home in South Natick, Mass., on the 3d inst., is announced in numerous journals with a respectful notice of his useful and honorable life. Though an honored clergyman, he did more as an educator of youth, and as a literary man, to hand his name down to posterity. As the founder and proprietor of the Spingler Institute in New York City, he wrought a work whose influence for good extended to hundreds of homes, and is still remembered with sentiments of gratitude by numerous accomplished ladies in different parts of our country. As an author he ranks with his brothers Jacob and John S. C., whose works for juvenile readers are so well appreciated on both sides of the ocean. He was 66 years old, and his remains are deposited by the side of a lamented child in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mrs. Abbot, an accomplished Christian lady, respected and beloved by all her acquaintances, survives him.

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[From the New York Observer.]

He was distinguished in a family marked by genius, learning, and great success in the departments of education and religious literature. . . . During his years of educational labor, his Institution had the highest reputation, and hundreds of the most highly accomplished ladies of our country received their culture under his care. He frequently visited Europe, and with unbounded liberality endowed his schools with every facility of improvement that the world would afford. He was deeply interested in Bible study, introducing into this country an edition of the Annotated Paragraph Bible, and seeking to cultivate a taste for its thorough research. Dr. Abbot leaves no children, his only child, a lovely daughter nine years old, being killed by a distressing accident in 1850. Mrs. Abbot, who survives him, is greatly endeared to all the pupils who have enjoyed her maternal care, and to a large circle of sympathizing friends.

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[From the Natick Bulletin.]

IN MEMORIAM.—Died in Fairhaven, Conn., March 29, at the residence of Rev. J. S. C. Abbott, Mrs. Rebecca S. Abbot, wife of the late Rev. Gorham D. Abbot, of South Natick.

When the intelligence was borne to us that our lifelong friend had departed this life, in the midst of our sorrow there came no questioning where is now her home, or whither has she gone? We had marked her earlier and later years. After receiving a thorough English education in one of the best schools of that period, she commenced the profession of teaching. Here she became allied by marriage with Rev. G. D. Abbot, and thus became connected with the family whose well-known celebrity in literary, social and spiritual life was a model for her imitation. For many years she was the devoted, faithful helper of her husband, who was at the head of a flourishing and successful school for young ladies in New York City until the Rebellion broke out, and scattered its members. The influence of the training here received, has undoubtedly made many women of rare accomplishments and distinguished worth.

But shadows fell upon their prosperous pathway. The death of their only child by a fatal accident, was a severe blow; and though it seamed the countenance, yet it imparted a calm serenity, and made high spiritual aims more than ever the object of their constant endeavor. Again, an eclipse fell upon their financial schemes of doing good with their accumulations, and they were called to pass through a bitter and unexpected trial.

But who ever heard a murmur from their lips? The expression of features betokened inward conflict, but the angelic sweetness would soon become so radiant, that we could read the triumph of faith that had completely gained the ascendancy, so that outward losses could not crush the spirit, but the tone of submission was accompanied by the words, "God doeth all things well."

Mrs. Abbot was a rare example of self-sacrifice. Had her husband to seek restoring influences from a foreign voyage, how well she filled the gap in his absence! Were an act of kindness to be done, how cheerfully self was surrendered that she might perform it! In the home of the grief-stricken how readily she applied consoling words, when her own heart was crushed by trials.

And now with a sorrowing heart we bid thee our earthly farewell, feeling assured that the plaudit of thy Master has been given thee for faithful service, and reunited to the beloved ones who preceded but a little space, we leave thee safely anchored into thy heavenly rest.

Com.

## CHAPTER THIRD.

### FROM SCHOOL TO COLLEGE.

#### "THE SPINGLER."



F all moral forces in a community none presents stronger appeal to thoughtful men and women than its institutions of learning.

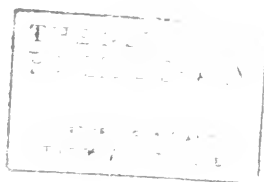
In a school of such prominence as "The Spingler," once so noted a feature of educational life in New York City, it is especially interesting to trace the rise and development both of its theories and achievements. More than half a century has elapsed since its corner-stone was laid, the buildings where its greatest triumphs were won have given place to other structures, but its spirit still lives, as a vitalizing force, through a re-incarnation of its ideals—in the modern college and school life.

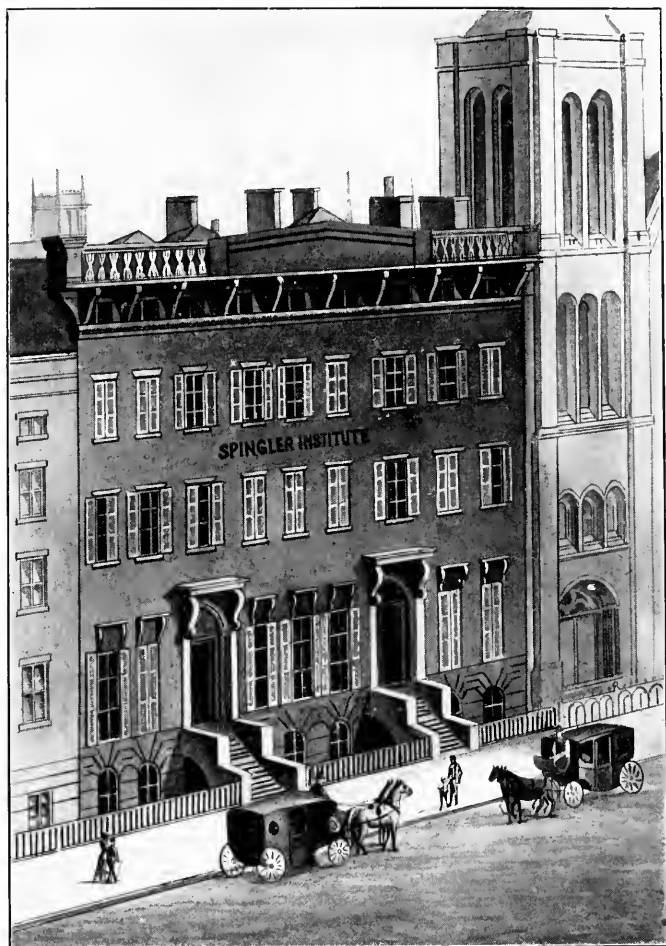
In the first catalogue published by Dr. Abbot after the opening of his Seminary in University Place, bearing date of 1847, he announces his purpose, a purpose which runs through all his career as a public teacher and leader.

"The course of study pursued in this Institution is planned with special reference to a solid, substantial and thorough education."

"Everything that can give refinement or dignity or grace to the mind or to the manners should be symmetrically blended in the education of a young lady."

"It is not so much the object of education to acquire a given amount of knowledge in a given time as to bring out and strengthen and discipline all these powers in symmetry





ABBOT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

“The Spingler”

and beauty, so that the whole of future existence shall be marked by continued and endless accessions in knowledge and virtue. While, therefore, all diligence should be used in laying up stores of knowledge, the great end of securing mental development, discipline and strength should ever be kept in view.”

Principles such as these translated into deeds of commensurate value led to the erection of the famous building on Union Square.

The New York Tribune of March 28, 1848 gives the following account of the laying of its corner stone :

“ In a brief address Mr. Abbot explained the purposes of the Institution as follows : to elevate the character of female education, to lay the foundation of an Institution that shall afford to the daughters of our country privileges superior to what they have generally enjoyed, and which shall more nearly correspond to those offered by our Colleges to the sons of America.” Mr. Abbot said, “ We have between one and two hundred colleges in our country, but where is the Yale, or Harvard, or Princeton for the education of females.”

In the prospectus for Spingler Institute issued September, 1848, Dr. Abbot has the following announcement :

“ The Collegiate Institution for the education of Young Ladies will resume its autumn session Wednesday, September 13, in The Spingler Institute, Union Park, the new edifice erected for it by the family of the late Henry Spingler, Esq. This new edifice supplies ample accommodations adapted to the purposes of education. The location cannot be surpassed in our city for convenience, beauty, and purity of air. It faces our most alluring Park and Fountain. The building itself is an ornament to the Park. It is 75 feet by 70, presenting a chaste and beautiful brown

stone front of four stories, in Corinthian style, and contains a full complement of rooms for all purposes of study, recitation and instruction; an excellent Lecture Hall, with an adjoining Laboratory, and a suite of apartments for Library, Cabinets of specimens in Natural Sciences, and Philosophical Apparatus. Every provision is made in this building at an expense of sixty or seventy thousand dollars to increase the facilities of education."

The end of the courses of study is stated as "Character." "That education is the best, which is most successful in forming a character prepared for duty and happiness in the life that now is and in that which is to come."

A catalogue of 1853 states that "the Institution is supplied by several thousand dollars worth of new and beautiful apparatus, unsurpassed by that of any other institution of our country. The Library contains about two thousand volumes of the most valuable books of reference. A cabinet of minerals and of shells, together with a good collection of maps, charts and models, make up a fair complement of educational aids."

Besides its material equipment, the studies pursued in the Collegiate Department of "The Spingler" corresponded in nearly all particulars with the courses of instruction offered by Yale College to its students.

The Faculty of Teachers and Lecturers was large, and numbered men and women eminent in their profession, whose ability was only measured by their generosity in service for their pupils. Doubtless much of the success of the school was due to Dr. and Mrs. Abbot's happy faculty of associating with themselves instructors of kindred aims who sought in all their work to realize the Spingler ideals.

The following announcements of a few of the numerous Lecture Courses, copied from *The New York Observer*,



preserve the names of the distinguished men who appeared in the Spingler Chapel from time to time and cannot fail to revive memories of their lectures :

FALL ANNOUNCEMENT,

LECTURES FOR LADIES AT THE SPINGLER INSTITUTE.

*First Course.*—By Prof. Henry B. Smith, D.D., of the Union Theological Seminary, Wednesdays at one o'clock, commencing October fifth, on *Moral Philosophy*—comprising the following topics : Man as a Moral Agent; Liberty and Necessity with the various Theories ; Conscience and its Functions; The Idea of Right; The Different Theories of the Nature of Virtue; Personal and Social Duties and Rights; Political Duties and Rights, including the Rights of Women; Duties to God; The Harmony and Difference of Natural and Christian Ethics, and the Christian Virtues.

*Second Course—The Evidences of Christianity:*

1. Nature and Outline of the Argument; Possibility and Need of a Revelation.

2. Historical Proof—Life and character of Christ; the Apostles and their Testimony; the Testimony of Prophecy; of Miracles; of the Scriptures and their Inspiration.

3. Philosophical Proof—Christianity the Perfect Religion; Christianity superior to Philosophy; Christianity the Centre of History.

*Third Course—Aesthetics:*

The Beautiful in distinction from other ideas; The Different Theories: of Imagination, Genius and Taste; the Artist; the Different Forms and Laws of the Beautiful: Oriental, Classic, and Christian Art; the Beautiful in Art; Architecture; Sculpture; Painting; Music: Poetry, Lyric, Epic and Dramatic; the Beautiful in Relation to Culture, Morals, and Religion.

*Historical Lectures:*

By Prof. Roswell D. Hitchcock, D.D., of the Union Theological Seminary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at one o'clock, commencing October 26, on *The General History of the World before Christ, paving the way for Christianity*, embracing: 1. The Preparation of the Theatre of this History. 2. How it was Peopled. 3. The Catastrophe that befell it. 4. The Several Races of Men. 5. The Hebrew Nation in the several distinct Stadia of their History. 6. The Grand Historic Civilizations and Empires, such as the Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek and Roman which conditioned the Hebrew development and prepared the way for Christ.

By Prof. Howard Crosby, of the New York University, *The History of Greece and its relative position in the World's History*, its heroes, statesmen, historians, philosophers, poets and monuments of art; the influence of Greece on the Roman Empire.

By Prof. Vincenzo Botta, Ph.D., of the New York University, on *Italy and the Roman Empire*, including a Survey of the various Causes and Effects of Italian Civilization.

If we add to these the Lectures on Chemistry, illustrated with elaborate experiments, by Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Jr., of Yale College, and Professor Loomis' lectures on Natural Philosophy; Prof. George W. Greene's lectures on English Literature; Prof. Elie Charlier's French Course, embracing such topics as Madame de Staël, Chateaubriand, Emile de Girardin, Béranger, or Prof. Peaslee's series on the Physiology of the Human Body, and the wide range of subjects thus presented by specialists, gives a vivid impression of the opportunities found in The Spingler Institute.

In addition to the severer studies Dr. Abbot made much of Music and Art in his educational scheme. Vocal Music entered largely into all departments of the school life. The Chapel and the Halls were hung with exquisite paintings, to familiarize the mind with objects of Art and to cultivate the taste. Choice collections of copies of masterpieces by the eminent Roman copyist, Chevalier Chatalaine, were purchased abroad at a large cost, and made a picture gallery, which was open to all students. One other feature of life at "The Spingler" should be stated in Dr. Abbot's own words: "The endeavor is made to have the pleasant memories and attachments which make, in after years, a brother's Alma Mater so dear to his heart, cluster around the sister's educational course. This element among the influences of education, and as a preparation for life, is as important for her as for him."



THE ABBOT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE,  
Known as "Upper Spingler," corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, New York.

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TILDEN FOUNDATION

The hundreds of Alumnæ in this and other lands, who after a generation, “rise up to call” their instructors “blessed,” afford evidence of how entirely Dr. Abbot succeeded in his endeavor.

The growth of the Spingler led Mr. Abbot to purchase as the basis for his long cherished plan of a university the celebrated Townsend mansion, corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, a situation remarkable at the time for its beauty and healthfulness.

From *The Tribune* of August 19, 1860, we glean the following description of the house:

“The edifice is entirely of brown stone four stories in height; and surrounded by open and handsomely laid out gardens. A large double stoop and portico, supported by fluted Corinthian columns forms the entrance.

On passing inward we are at once struck by the great size of the entrance hall, which extends from the first floor to the roof, with an arched ceiling, beautifully ornamented in blue and gold. The hall is surrounded on each story with corridors supported by columns, and presents an imposing appearance.

On the left of the entrance is the main drawing-room, about twenty-three feet by eighty, whose frescoes and ornamentations present a rare combination of harmonious and blended coloring. In the rear of the drawing-room, is the dining-room, which leads to the conservatories beyond, and is richly ornamented by stained glass.

To the right of the entrance is the library, and adjoining a small but unique apartment called the ‘Pompeii Room,’ which is a fac simile in size and frescoes, of a room in the exhumed City of Pompeii.

Beyond this is the gallery of paintings, filled with some of the choicest works of art to be found in this city.

The other floors are reached by a winding staircase of remarkable beauty and graceful design. The second story is occupied with suites of rooms opening upon the corridor, and the third and fourth stories are assigned to the ordinary purposes of domestic apartments.”

The cost of the building and its equipment represent an investment of over \$250,000.

With reference to this undertaking Dr. Abbot says: "It is believed there is not in the world at this day, an Institution for the education of daughters with a library of ten thousand volumes, a telescope worth five thousand dollars, and corresponding appointments in apparatus, cabinets, and works of art, that would be deemed indispensable in a college for sons."

"This enterprise was undertaken and has been prosecuted with the full conviction that the establishment and endowment in our great metropolis, of an Institution worthy of such an object, would be followed by similar movements in every city and State of the Union, and that ultimately a great change would be effected in the public estimate of the provisions which should be made for the education of daughters."

Do not the Colleges that now appear throughout the land for "the education of daughters" fulfil not only the prophetic vision, but the life purpose of this grand pioneer who dared all and gave all of money, experience and professional skill to establish a College for woman.

In seeking to realize his purpose Dr. Abbot fully recognized the fact that no individual without large means could unaided and alone, place such an undertaking as the foundation of a University on a solid financial basis. Hence he sought the advice of prominent business men of New York, and secured the co-operation of some, in the formation of a joint stock company in whose hands the business management was to be vested, while he was to direct the educational work of the new college in accordance with his own methods and principles.

Dr. Abbot's private investments and resources, with the large available income from the school, were deeded to the Trustees for the purposes of the Institution and every pro-

vision that human foresight and generous self-sacrifice could suggest was made to secure permanence and success to the enterprise. The charter indicates the scope of the plan.

#### CHARTER.

*An Act to incorporate “The University for Young Ladies, in the City of New York,”*

SECTION 1. Rev. Gardiner Spring, D.D., Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D.D., Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, D.D., Rev. M. S. Hutton, D.D., Rev. Wm. Hague, D.D., Rev. Henry B. Smith, D.D., Rt. Rev. Edmund S. James, D.D., Rev. Geo. L. Prentiss, D.D., Rev. S. Irenaeus Prime, D.D., Rev. Sam'l Cooke, D.D., Hon. James W. Beekman, A. R. Wetmore, Esq., Dr. Gurdon Buck, Dr. Edmund R. Peaslee, Wm. C. Noyes, Esq., Rev. Walter A. Bidwell, Wm. E. Dodge, Esq., Marshall O. Roberts, Esq., Chas. Abernethy, Esq., James Stokes, Esq., Benj. F. Mannière, Esq., Geo. W. Lane, Esq., Dr. Willard Parker, Thomas Denny, Esq., are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of “The University for Young Ladies in the City of New York.” By that name the said corporation shall have power to fill vacancies as they may occur from time to time in their board, to sue and be sued, to contract and be contracted with, to make and use a common seal and to alter the same at pleasure, to purchase, take and hold, by gift, grant or devise, and to dispose of any real and personal property, the yearly income or revenue of which shall not exceed the value of 40,000 dollars.

2. The object and purpose of said corporation are hereby declared to be to promote the education of young women in literature, science and the arts.

3. The University may grant to students under its charge

diplomas or honorary testimonials, in such form as it may designate. It may also grant and confer such honors, degrees and diplomas as are granted by any university, college or seminary of learning in the United States.

4. Diplomas granted by the University shall entitle the possessors to the immunities and privileges allowed by usage or statute to the possessors of like diplomas from any university, college or seminary of learning in this State.

5. The persons named in the first section of this act shall be the first trustees of the said corporation. The president of the university while holding office, shall be a member of the board of trustees.

6. Seven trustees shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. The trustees may declare dividends on said stock, payable out of the net savings of said institution, not exceeding seven per cent. per annum.

7. The corporation shall have all such powers, and be subject to such duties and liabilities as are applicable to colleges, and are specified or contained in the second and fifth articles of the first title of the 15th chapter of the first part of the revised statutes, and in title third, chapter 18 of the same part of the revised statutes, except so far as the same are inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

8. This act shall take effect immediately.

The religious and secular press gave liberal mention to this unique educational movement.

An appreciative article in *The New York Observer*, makes the following statement:

“The Rev. Gorham D. Abbot has made greater exertions in the cause of female education than almost any other man in this city, and his labors have been crowned with distinguished success. ‘The Spingler Institute’ on Union Square is a creation of his own, an ornament, and a blessing to the city, while it reflects the highest credit on its founder. But not satisfied with what



he has already done, he has now embarked in an enterprise of such commanding magnitude and importance as to surpass any similar private undertaking within our knowledge.”

*The New York Evening Post* also, in commenting upon “the new phase in the career of *The Spingler*,” adds :

“Our readers will remember the excitement that marked the completion of the Townsend Mansion, and its public exhibition, two or three years ago. We think it a more important announcement that the Abbot Collegiate Institute by the enterprise of its principal has come into the possession of this remarkable private palace. No building on the island is more easily susceptible of metamorphosis from a dwelling to a College.”

A quotation from the *Boston Post* is also of interest in this connection, as showing public opinion outside of New York :

“There is reason to believe that the provisions for education in every department of *The Spingler* are commensurate with the idea of a proper University for woman. The well-known reputation of ‘*The Spingler*’ for sound, solid, conservative improvement may be accepted as some guarantee that the work will be carried forward to perfection.”

That this would have been accomplished no one who knew Dr. Abbot’s purpose could doubt, had not National calamity combined with private misfortune, to prevent the consummation of his hope as it approached fruition.

The apparent surrender of the enterprise was due to circumstances which no human forethought could have anticipated.

When the great teacher could no longer place his College on a firm foundation, his plans were deeded to Mr. Matthew Vassar. At this time Mrs. Alma E. Curtis, now Mrs. Howes, was acting as Secretary for Dr. Abbott, and she writes with reference to the facts :

“I well remember Mr. Vassar’s frequent visits and the long talks in the study. For years Mr. Abbot had had in mind to establish a College for girls that should be as well en-

dowed as those for boys, and had drawn plans for all details, which he gave to Mr. Vassar, saying: 'Means for which I have been laboring for this object are gone; with them health and spirits for the undertaking, You, Mr. Vassar, have both. Take all my plans and good will for your success.'

'And you will give me this good lady to ensure the success of the plans?' inquired Mr. Vassar.

'No, I cannot do that,' was the quick reply. '*She belongs to the school.*'

So the University was merged in Vassar College, and the school went on its way, fulfilling its ideals."

Later when it removed to the "Suydam House," the following notice appeared in *The New York Evangelist*:

"It will be gratifying news to many friends that this excellent Institution has re-opened in a very advantageous location and with the best prospects. Dr. Abbot has taken the large house of Mr. James Suydam, at the corner of Thirty-eighth Street and Park Avenue. It is a spacious mansion and stands on the very crown of Murray Hill, from which it commands a view of almost the whole island. We trust in its new position it may have a long and prosperous career.

When at last Dr. Abbot laid down his work it was with the purpose of taking it up again.

He writes in a private note, dated August 9, 1866:

"Circumstances make it desirable for me to have a year of respite before making further efforts to accomplish the object to which we have devoted the best portion of our lives. I have toiled unceasingly during the last five and twenty years. I hope later to be able to resume our life-work under more propitious auspices and with fair prospects for accomplishing that which we have toiled for so long."

Brave heart with the unconquerable hope! He *has* "resumed" his "life work," at last, in the College he helped to create, under the "auspices" of the students he trained in "The Spingler" and Abbot Institutes!

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THE ABBOT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.  
"The Snyder House," corner of Park Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street, New York.

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

### REMINISCENCES.

BY MISS MARIA P. GILMAN.



Y first acquaintance with the school was in University Place, not long after Mr. Gorham Abbot had withdrawn from the school conducted by the Abbott Brothers in Houston Street, perhaps for want of more room. He had taken with him the Senior class, and, I think, Miss Eliza Flint, one of the teachers. Gradually he added younger classes, and the house No. 15 University Place, a broad and spacious dwelling house, became inadequate to the needs of the growing school. Already Mr. Abbot's mind was full of plans for the higher education of the girls, for giving young ladies the same advantages with their brothers in college, and he was trying to enlist men and women of means to help him carry out these ideas. He succeeded in interesting the Spingler family and this led to the erection of the house on Union Square, the removal of the school and the name of Spingler Institute. The corner stone of that building was laid with religious services, as if it had been a church—and it was truly, in Mr. Abbot's heart, dedicated to the service of God.

Let me go back to University Place, for I think there are few persons living who remember those early days. I wanted to be a teacher but I had had no experience and no training. Mr. Abbot received me most kindly, gave me all the privileges of the Senior class, and allowed me to teach some small classes. The intellectual stimulus of the school

was delightful. The Seniors gathered round a long table in the back parlor, and there Mr. Abbot led the morning devotions and guided us through Upham's Mental Science (then a favorite book with him) and other studies which we considered *advanced*. There the lectures on English Literature were given by Dr. Cheever (with frequent mention of his beloved Pilgrim's Progress), by Dr. Baird on the Crowned Heads of Europe (with whom he seemed to be on terms of personal intimacy), by Dr. Prime on Hymnology, and occasionally other eminent lecturers. The Bible lessons on Monday morning were very important. Mr. Abbot demanded much writing of notes, abstracts, analyses and tables, whatever was the subject of study.

This comes back to me as a most interesting period of my life and I am deeply grateful for what I there gained. It was all delightful while I was only an assistant pupil—but the next year I was put in charge for a little while of the Primary Department, and afterwards of the Intermediate *and I was not a success!* The teaching was not difficult, but the discipline was dreadful! I did not know what to do with naughty girls, and they soon found out my weak points. If any of them are living, I humbly crave their forgiveness for my many mistakes! This was all before the removal to the new Spingler. I cannot remember any naughty girls or any troublesome discipline after that.

As I look back after these many years, certain features of the school seem to me noteworthy. First and most important is the moral and religious character of the school. The highest ideals were set before the pupils, but only the most worthy motives were urged upon them. Very little was done in the way of exhibitions—nothing in prizes. There was a regular curriculum of study—examinations were rather of the nature of reviews than a test of scholarship.

Who can forget Mr. Abbot's little talks in the Chapel at the opening of school every morning? They gave tone to the whole day, and were always practical and pointed. His text was often from the Book of Proverbs, and it was surprising to see how it fitted the circumstances of modern school girl life.

"*It is not good to eat much honey,*" &c., one time when Mr. Abbot had reason to think some girls were living on praise.

"*Fret not thyself because of evil doers.*" I took that to myself when I was miserable over some one's misdeeds. Then there was the famous verse about the froward person "who winketh with his eye, speaketh with his feet, maketh signs with his fingers," &c., a commentary on the "No communications" rule. I believe some of the scholars thought Mr. Abbot made up the text to fit the sermon.

Mr. Abbot was discerning of character. He could look below the surface, and was always willing to believe the best and to give an erring one another chance. His direct personal influence on individuals was remarkable, and in this he was equalled—perhaps excelled by Mrs. Abbot, who was so gentle and so strong, so firm and so tender! I think of her as

A perfect woman, nobly planned,  
To warn, to comfort, and command.

Mr. Abbot was most successful in enlisting superior men as instructors and lecturers. In this he was far in advance of other schools. Where else were the very same long courses of lectures given in a girls' school that were given in the Union Theological Seminary, New York University, and Yale College? The courses on Psychology and Metaphysics by Prof. Henry B. Smith, and on Bible History by Prof. R. W. Hitchcock, were of inestimable value. And

for instructors, coming daily, not merely occasionally, there were such men of broad and varied culture as Professors Irving, Greene, Means, not to speak of others, some of whom are still living.

To estimate fairly this school it should be compared not with the schools and colleges for women to-day, but with what existed in New York City before 1850. Good schools there were before, conducted by able teachers, and noble women were trained in them, but there surely was a great advance about the middle of the last century, and in the forward movement Gorham D. Abbot was a pioneer—all honor to his memory !



## CHAPTER FIFTH.

THE GOLDEN BOOK OF SPINGLER.

### LECTURERS AND INSTRUCTORS

AT THE SPINGLER AND ABBOT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

---

Rev. Gorham D. Abbot, LL.D.,

Mental and Moral Philosophy, Languages, Evidences of Christianity,  
the Bible, etc.

Miss Eliza H. Flint,

Miss Maria P. Gilman,

Miss Lucy Garfield,

Miss Caroline M. Bulkley,

Mathematics, English Literature, Composition.

Prof. George F. Root,

Music as a Science and as an Art.

Prof. Gustave Choquet,

Miss Elise Braderhouse,

French Language and Literature.

Prof. Thomas S. Cummings,

Linear and Perspective Drawing, assisted by his daughters,

Miss Rebecca Cummings,

Miss Jane Cummings.

Rev. George B. Cheever, D.D.,

Lecturer on English Literature.

Rev. Robert Baird, D.D.,

Lecturer on Modern Europe.

Mrs. Mary D. Woodbury,

Miss Harriet L. Gilman,

Primary Department.

Mrs. Alma E. Curtis.

Governess.

Mr. E. Towner Root,                      Miss Helen Root,  
Miss Elizabeth C. Belcher,  
Music as a Science and as an Art.

Prof. Frederick W. Schack,  
Piano-forte.

Prof. Jean Baptiste Kestler,              Mlle. Elise Fleurot,  
Mlle. Eugenie Dumaux,  
French Language and Literature.

Mr. A. H. Wheeler,  
Writing.

Rev. John Lord, D.D.,  
Lecturer on History.

Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Jr.,  
Lecturer on Chemistry.

Rev. Samuel I. Prime, D.D.,  
Lecturer on Poetry.

Dr. T. S. Lambert,  
Lecturer on Physiology.

Dr. H. Goadby,  
Entomologist.

Prof. Alex. Villeplait,                      Mlle. Louise Martin,  
Mme. C. E. Gouye,      Prof. Jean Roemer,  
French Language and Literature.

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Primary Department.

Prof. Daniel C. Gilman,  
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Lecturer on Mental and Moral Philosophy, The Evidences of Christianity,  
Philosophy of History and Aesthetics.

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Lecturer on the General History of the World before Christ.

Prof. Howard Crosby, D.D.,

Lecturer on the History of Greece and the Greek Empire.

Prof. Vincenza Botta, LL.D.,

Lecturer on the History of Italy and the Roman Empire.

Prof. Edmund R. Peaslee, M.D.,

Lecturer on Physiology.

Rev. James B. Pearson

Mental Philosophy.

Prof. William Mason,  
Piano-forte.

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Miss N. D. McKeen,                      Miss Emily M. Coe.  
English Branches, Mathematics, Natural Science.

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Rev. James R. Boyd,  
Mental and Moral Philosophy, English Literature, etc.

Señor Juan Barcelo,  
The Spanish Language.

Mlle. E. H. Le Clere,  
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Mlle. M. Preu,  
German Language and Literature.

Prof. E. Millet,                      Mme. Valliant,  
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Prof. E. Sebastiani,  
Guitar.

Miss Lois T. Caswell,                      Miss Julia Wright,  
Miss Malvina Proctor,                      Miss Fannie Merritt,  
English branches, Mathematics, Natural Science.

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Rev. Horatio Oliver Ladd,

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Miss Frances A. Graham,

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English Branches.

Rev. Mr. Dana,

Mental and Moral Philosophy, etc.

NOTE.—The foregoing list has been copied from Annual Circulars and other papers relating to the school, and is in chronological order, beginning with the year 1846. As some circulars are missing, especially those for the latter years of the school, the list is not complete, and further information in regard to it is desired.





THE ABBOT MEMORIAL BOOK.

PART II.



## CHAPTER FIRST.

### THE ABBOT MEMORIAL IN VASSAR COLLEGE.

#### ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND CONSUMMATION.



HE Spingler Institute, the product of the labors and prophetic enterprise of Rev. Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbot, opened its doors to the girls of America in the year eighteen hundred forty-eight.

Fifty years later, in January eighteen hundred ninety-eight, it was suggested that a school which had served as a noble pioneer in the higher education of women, should receive recognition as such, by a celebration of the golden wedding of the plans of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot with those of Mr. Matthew Vassar in the founding of Vassar College. The idea met with favor. Three of the Alumnae volunteered to act as a Committee to inaugurate the movement. Notices to that effect were published in *The New York Tribune*, *The Outlook*, and in *The Literary World*, of Boston. And the following circular was sent to all whose addresses were known:

TO THE FORMER PUPILS OF REV. GORHAM D. ABBOT.

DEAR FRIENDS :

A meeting to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Spingler Institute will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 1898, at 3:30 P. M., at No. 28 West 34th Street, New York.

A plan will then be presented for raising a fund in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot, which may be applied toward a scholarship in Vassar College, the first institution to carry out our honored Principal's desires for the collegiate education of women.

As it is not possible to obtain a complete list of the members of the school, it is hoped that the notice of this meeting may be passed from one to another and that the attendance may be large enough to prove the loyalty and affection that still exists among Mr. Abbot's pupils.

The Committee hope that you will be able to come, and that in any case you will communicate with one of them.

MRS. ELIZABETH [HYDE] MEAD,  
Hillside, Norwalk, Conn.

MRS. HENRIETTA [DRIGGS] PRENTISS,  
30 West 34th St., New York.

MRS. LOUISA [GILMAN] LANE,  
Norwich, Conn.

*Committee of Arrangements.*

The result was such an unexpected response in numbers and enthusiasm as to ensure the success of the movement from its inception.

The plan for establishing an Abbot scholarship or a loan fund in Vassar College, was presented by Mrs. Melville Emory Mead, and unanimously approved.

The following ladies were nominated and elected to serve as an Abbot Memorial Committee, and empowered to act as might be deemed best in bringing the matter before the widely scattered former pupils of the Abbot School. The exact form of the Memorial was left subject to the decision of this Committee:

Mrs. Moses Hopkins (Emily J. Benedict), Miss Gertrude F. McNamee, Mrs. George P. Rowell (Jennette Rigney), Mrs. W. H. Beadleston (Annie Colwell), Mrs. W. L. Skidmore (Helen Beadleston), Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan (Isabel Place), Mrs. Chas. A. Stoddard (Minnie Prime), Mrs. Anna Churchill, Miss Fannie Averill, Mrs. A. M. Prentiss (Henrietta Driggs), all of New York City; Mrs. Bishop Satterlee (Jennie Churchill), Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mark A. Hanna (Augusta Rhodes), Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Julia Holmes

Smith, Chicago, Ill. ; Mrs. George W. Lane (Louise Gilman), Norwich, Conn. ; Mrs. Melville Emory Mead (Elizabeth Hyde), Norwalk, Conn.

Later the following names were added :

Mrs. Theodore Morris (Fannie Schanck), Mrs. Edwin Corning (Virginia M. Gibson), Mrs. Frederick E. Lathrop (Camilla Van Auken), Mrs. J. Jarrett Blodgett (Mary Sherwood), Mrs. Henry C. Eno (Cornelia Lane), Mrs. W. W. Law (Georgiana Ransom), Mrs. W. D. Moore (Esther Ransom), Mrs. Thomas Hooker (Margaret Averill).

With the exception of the necessary resignations of Mrs. Morris in 1900, and the lamented deaths of Miss Averill and Mrs. Churchill in the fall of 1901, the Committee has served as elected until the completion of its work.

Mrs. Moses Hopkins was made Chairman, Mrs. George P. Rowell, Treasurer, and Miss Gertrude F. McNamee, Secretary.

At a meeting of the Abbot Memorial Committee, held June 7, at the residence of Mrs. Hopkins, more than a quorum being present in person or by proxies, it was voted, in accordance with the almost unanimous sentiment expressed at the Reunion, to found a scholarship in Vassar College to bear the names of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot.

Three ladies were appointed to draw up a circular letter setting forth the facts presented at this first Reunion of Abbot pupils, which, through the generosity of Mr. George P. Rowell, was printed and sent out without expense to the fund.

Money, from unexpected and widely diverging sources, began to flow into the treasury.

A second Reunion, kindly offered by Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan, at her residence 584 Fifth Avenue, New York, gave a renewed impulse to the work of collecting funds,

until at the third Reunion, in May, eighteen hundred ninety-nine, when Mrs. Moses Hopkins also opened her hospitable mansion to the pupils and friends of Mr. Abbot, the Treasurer was able to report the sum of \$3,181 as invested in Savings Banks to the credit of the Abbot Memorial Committee. Our fourth Reunion at the Hotel Manhattan, January seventeenth, nineteen hundred, revealed the inspiring fact that our fund had reached the half-way mark.

In the spring of this year Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan was appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee, while Mrs. Hopkins became Honorary Chairman.

In the fall the Committee issued a second circular, and the fifth Reunion, held in December, showed a gratifying increase in receipts.

The third circular, bearing date of February, nineteen hundred one, announced that \$7,549.23 had been received in subscriptions and interest by the Treasurer since the December Reunion, and that of the \$8,000 required for the scholarship, only \$842.77 was needed.

This amount was secured in November of the same year. The Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbot scholarship was presented to the President of Vassar College at a Reunion held at the Hotel Manhattan, December eighteenth, nineteen hundred one.

During the three and half years of its existence the Committee has held besides the six Reunions, twenty-one important business meetings. The work of the Secretary would have been onerous had it not been a labor of love. She has a record of fifteen hundred names of Abbot pupils, and has traced to some extent 1,048. Of these 626 have been found, and 142 relatives of deceased pupils have also been the recipients of her friendly correspondence.

Miss McNamee has had responses to her letters from the States of Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Honolulu, and in addition from Canada, England, France, and Italy.

The Secretary has been assisted in correspondence by all the ladies of the Committee. Special service has been rendered by Mrs. Moses Hopkins, Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan, Mrs. Frederick Lathrop, Mrs. George P. Rowell, Mrs. Theodore Morris, Mrs. Edwin Corning, Mrs. Charles A. Stoddard, Mrs. George W. Lane, Mrs. Melville E. Mead, Mrs. West, Miss Susie Miles, Mrs. Kirkland, Mrs. Pond, Mrs. Heermance, Mrs. Mack, Miss Scribner, Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. P. V. Finch, Mrs. Kingsbury, Mrs. Gorsline, Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Thomas Moore, and Mrs. Cornelius Clark.

The letters of the Secretary and her assistants, with reference to this undertaking, number nearly three thousand, those of the Treasurer number over one thousand, and with about twelve hundred by the Chairman of the Business Committee, and many not reported by other members of the Abbot Committee, it will be seen that the number cannot have fallen much short of six thousand.

Nine of the pupils of the J. S. C. and Jacob Abbott Schools have been interested contributors to the fund.

In the management of this enterprise, the Committee from first to last has been a unit in all its plans and efforts. The judicious investment and conservative management of the fund by the Treasurer, and her self-sacrificing labors in

connection with it, have afforded important elements of success. In addition to generous gifts of money, she has donated the printing of reports, large amounts for postage, besides subscriptions for current expenses. Other members of the Committee have also personally assumed various expenses and have given most liberally, both of money and of time to carry forward the work.

By the last report of the Treasurer it will be seen that all expenses necessary to prosecuting such an unusual undertaking as that of the Abbot Committee have either been met by individual members of that Committee or have been paid from the interest of the fund earned in its banks of deposit. Not one contribution for the scholarship has been applied to the expense account.

The Committee has also had the most loyal response of the Abbot student body. Countless letters, expressing appreciation of the labors of Mr. and Mrs. Abbot, and delight in this movement to honor their blessed memory have given inspiration and help in an enterprise, which it was feared might have touched the past more vitally than the present. The result has proved that the work of the true teacher is undying. It has been the privilege of these pupils to preserve from oblivion the labors and ideals of teachers whose names have now become immortal in the annals of higher education.

In this connection also record should be made of the thanks due to the various ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly contributed by their presence and their eloquent addresses to the success of the Reunions. Among these may be mentioned President Taylor, of Vassar College; Rev. Lyman Abbott, D.D., of *The Outlook*; Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke, of Princeton University; Rev. H. O. Ladd, Rector St. James, Jamaica, N. Y.; Rev. Edward Abbott, Cam-



bridge, Mass.; Rev. A. T. Schauffler, New York; Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, Mrs. Julia Keese Nelson Colles, Mrs. Emma Moffet Tyng, Mrs. A. T. Schauffler, Mademoiselle Le Clere and others.

The committee is also grateful for the kind encouragement and support received from the President and Trustees of Vassar College.

At the inception of its plan, in June, 1898, the amount required to endow a full scholarship in the College was \$8,000. The following year it was found necessary to increase this amount to \$10,000. Yet in June, 1901, the Board of Trustees generously voted to accept \$8,000 for this Memorial as a full scholarship, if the amount were secured during the year of 1901.

This action gave the needed spur to the final accomplishment of the work.

The Committee has presented to the College a fine portrait of Rev. Gorham D. Abbot, with enlarged crayon photographs of the buildings occupied by the Abbot Collegiate Institute, known as the Spingler, the mansions corner Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street and of Park Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street.

These pictures have been artistically framed and inscribed.

With the completion of the Memorial Book, the work of the Abbot Memorial Committee will be closed.

ELIZABETH HYDE MEAD,  
- *Chairman Business Committee.*

## CHAPTER SECOND.

### NEW NOTES IN AN OLD MELODY.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new."

"Of love that never found his earthly close  
What sequel?"

### THE INTERPRETATION.

There have been four hundred subscriptions, ranging from one dollar to five hundred each.....	\$8,180.72
Interest to January 1st, 1902, on fund deposited in Savings Bank,	539.00
Memorial Scholarship.....	\$8,000.00
General Expenses.....	670.92
Balance paid over to book fund.....	48.80
	<hr/>
	\$8,719.72    \$8,719.72

MRS. GEORGE P. ROWELL,

May 17th, 1902.

Treasurer.

### LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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- Hanlon, Mrs. John (Mary A. Bonsall)..... Pennington, N. J.
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- Hanna, Mrs. Mark A. (Augusta Rhodes)..... Cleveland, Ohio.
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- Hooker, Mrs. Thomas (Margaret Averill)..... New York.  
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 Houghton, Miss Louise C..... New York.  
 Housman, Mrs. Charles H. (Emma Van Valkenburgh)..... New York.  
 Howe, Mrs. A. B. (Elizabeth Mehaffey) ..... Cambridge, Mass.  
 Howe, Mrs. Lucien (Elizabeth M. Howe)..... Buffalo, N. Y.  
 Howes, Mrs. Osborn (Mrs. Alma Curtis)..... Boston, Mass.  
 Hubbard, Mrs. Gardiner Greene (Gertrude McCurdy).... Washington, D. C.  
 Hungerford, Mrs. Mary Churchill..... New York.  
 Huntington, Mrs. Joseph S. (Sarah E. Curtis)..... Old Lyme, Conn.  
 Hurd, Mrs. Charles (Julia Edwards) ..... Dorchester, Mass.  
 Hussey, Mrs. William H. (Cornelia Collins)..... Orange, N. J.  
 \*Hyde, Miss Fannie B., in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. M. E. Mead....  
 ..... New York.  
 \*Hyde, Miss Maria C., in memory of, from Miss Caroline Willard, New York.  
 \*Iverson, Miss Henrietta, in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. H. P. Hoad-  
 ley..... New York.  
 Jacques, Miss Emma J. .... New York.  
 \*Jaffray, Mrs. Robert (Eliza C. Smith), in memory of, from her husband ...  
 ..... New York.  
 Janeway, Mrs. Jacob J. (Eliza Harrington)..... New Brunswick, N. J.  
 Jenks, Mrs. Robert B. (Annie J. Brown)..... Elmira, N. Y.  
 \*Jesup, Miss Sarah J., in memory of, from Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, New York.  
 Jessup, Miss Fannie M..... Montrose, Pa.  
 Johnson, Mrs. John Edgar (Fannie Hallock)..... Ossining, N. Y.  
 Judd, Mrs. A. F. (Agnes Hall Boyd)..... Honolulu, Sandwich Islands.  
 Kennedy, Mrs. John S. (Emma Baker)..... New York.  
 Kennedy, Mrs. Louise Clisby..... Macon, Ga.  
 Kidder, Mrs. D. O. (Susie M. Magoun)..... Medford, Mass.  
 Kingman, Mrs. C. A. (Caro A. Graves)..... Princeton, Mass.  
 Knapp, Mrs. Shepherd (Emma Benedict)..... New York.  
 Lane, Mrs. George W. (Louise Gilman)..... Norwich, Conn.  
 Lane, Mrs. William H. (Caroline H. Allen)..... New York.  
 \*Langmuir, Mrs. Gavin (Laura Jennette Baker), in memory of, from her sis-  
 ter, Mrs. John S. Kennedy..... New York.  
 Larned, Miss Augusta..... New York.  
 Lathrop, Mrs. Frederick E. (Camilla VanAuken)..... New York.

Law, Mrs. Walter W. (Georgiana Ransom).....	Scarborough, N. Y.
Leclère, Mlle. Louise.....	New York.
Leeds, Miss Addie L.....	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Leeds, Mrs. H. E. (Hattie Williams).....	New York.
Leonard, Mrs. William R.....	Cleveland, Ohio.
Lerned, Miss Lucy A.....	Hopkinton, N. H.
Leslie, Miss Elizabeth.....	Syracuse, N. Y.
Lewis, Mrs. Charles Dudley (Emma J. Clark)....	South Framingham, Mass.
Lincoln, Mrs. Rufus P. (Caroline Tyler).....	Plainfield, N. J.
Loizeaux, Mrs. Paul J. (Celia A. Sanderson).....	Plainfield, N. J.
Loveland, Mrs. A. G. (Anna S. Green).....	Pittsford, Vt.
Low, Miss Louisa.....	Stamford, Conn.
Ludlow, Miss Helen W. ....	Hampton, Va.
Lyle, Mrs. John (E. Antoinette Newcomb).....	Tenafly, N. J.
MacCollum, Mrs. Alexander (Eleanor Lake).....	New York.
Mack, Mrs. H. Q. (Mary Janes).....	Catskill Station, N. Y.
Manning, Miss Jane Ford.....	New Brunswick, N. J.
Martin, Mrs. John Sayre (Mary VanDuzer).....	New York.
Martin, Mrs. Samuel (Orella D. Pond).....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Mason, Miss Margaretta B. ....	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mattison, Miss M. Augusta.....	Hastings, N. Y.
Maxwell, Miss Kate.....	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Maxwell, Mrs. William D. (Mary Beadleston).....	New York.
McAllister, Mrs. Francis M. (Carrie Cornell).....	Elizabeth, N. J.
McBride, Mrs. Lee (Harriet E. Wright).....	Cleveland, Ohio.
McClellan, Mrs. Charles H. (Malleville Smith).....	Lakewood, N. J.
McNamee, Miss Gertrude F.....	New York.
Mead, Mrs. Melville E. (Elizabeth Hyde).....	Norwalk, Conn.
Meigs, Mrs. Charles H. (Kate Campbell).....	Redlands, Cal.
Mellor, Mrs. James (Hattie M. Ransom).....	Manchester, England.
Merritt, Mrs. E. R. (Leila Roosevelt).....	New York.
Miles, Miss Susan W.....	New York.
Moore, Mr. Douglas G.....	Elizabeth, N. J.
Moore, Mrs. Thomas (Connie Tait).....	Elizabeth, N. J.
Moore, Mrs. W. D. (Esther F. Ransom).....	New York.
Morgan, Mrs. D. P. (Caroline Fellowes).....	Washington, D. C.
Morris, Miss Maria J.....	Richmond, Va.
Morris, Mrs. Theodore W. (Fannie Schenck).....	New York.



- \*Mott, Miss Lillie F., in memory of, from her mother, Mrs. John W. Mott . . . . . Montclair, N. J.
- \*Munro, Miss Helen, in memory of, from her sisters, Miss Lucia N. Munro and Miss Phoebe Munro. . . . . New York.
- Neill, Mrs. Henry M. (Mary Schultz). . . . . New Orleans, La.
- Nevius, Mrs. William J. (M. Louise Scribner). . . . . South Orange, N. J.
- Newberry, Mrs. John (Helen Handy). . . . . Detroit, Mich.
- Newcomb, Miss Kate. . . . . Tenaflly, N. J.
- Newell, Mrs. John W. (Martha C. Earl). . . . . New York.
- Noble, Mrs. M. R. (Mary Rawdon). . . . . Kenilworth, Ill.
- Paton, Mrs. R. L. S. (Nettie Baylis). . . . . East Orange, N. J.
- \*Perry, Miss Adeline Reid, in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. James R. Clark. . . . . New York.
- Pierson, Mrs. Arthur T. (Sarah F. Benedict). . . . . Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Platt, Mrs. Isaac S. (M. Jenny Redfield). . . . . New York.
- Plumley, Miss E. C. . . . . Oberlin, Ohio.
- Pott, Miss Gertrude. . . . . Summit, N. J.
- Pott, Miss Mary. . . . . Summit, N. J.
- Prentiss, Mrs. Andrew M. (Henrietta Driggs). . . . . New York.
- \*Prince, Mrs. Christopher (Sarah Zabriskie), in memory of, from her husband. . . . . Flatbush, Long Island.
- Rankin, Miss Sallie A. . . . . Ocean Grove, N. J.
- Raymond, Miss Charlotte E. . . . . Norwalk, Conn.
- \*Redfield, Miss Clara, in memory of, from her mother, Mrs. John H. Redfield. . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.
- Reynolds, Mrs. James B. (Emily A. Van Beuren). . . . . New York.
- Richards, Mrs. Julia Leavitt. . . . . Washington, Conn.
- Roberts, Miss Mary M. . . . . New York.
- \*Roosevelt, Miss May, in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. E. R. Merritt. . . . . New York.
- Rowell, Mrs. George P. (Jennette Rigney). . . . . Irvington, N. Y.
- Rumrill, Mrs. James A. (Anna Chapin). . . . . New York.
- Russell, Miss Lucy E. . . . . Boston, Mass.
- Russell, Mrs. Mary Bliss. . . . . Jonestown, Miss.
- Sampson, Mrs. William H. (Mary M. Smith). . . . . Plainfield, N. J.
- Sands, Mrs. William (Mary B. Gardiner). . . . . New Hamburg, N. Y.
- Satterlee, Mrs. Henry Y. (Jennie L. Churchill). . . . . Washington, D. C.
- Sayre, Mrs. D. E. (Sarah E. Ely). . . . . Fulton, Wis.

- Schauffler, Mrs. A. F. (Julia Baker).....New York.
- \*Schermerhorn, Miss Matilda B., in memory of, from her mother, Mrs. J. M. Schermerhorn.....Homer, N. Y.
- Schultz, Miss Harriet.....New Orleans, La.
- Scribner, Miss Gertrude E.....Ithaca, N. Y.
- \*Seymour, Mrs. C. W. (Helen Augusta Holmes), in memory of, from her father, Mr. Samuel P. Holmes.....Tacoma, Wash.
- Shaw, Mrs. S. Parkman (Gertrude Bramwell).....Boston, Mass.
- \*Sheffield, Mrs. George S. (Mary Stewart), in memory of, from her son, Mr. Joseph Earl Sheffield.....New York.
- Skidmore, Mrs. William L. (Helen Beadleston).....New York.
- Skinner, Miss Elizabeth.....Chicago, Ill.
- \*Slade, Mrs. Francis H. (Elizabeth J. Stokes), in memory of, from her sisters.....New York.
- Smith, Mrs. Cornelius B. (Mary Wheeler).....New York.
- Smith, Miss Eliza D.....Brookline, Mass.
- Smith, Mrs. Edw. D. G. (Margaret V. N. Baldwin).....Newark, N. J.
- Smith, Mrs. Fitch W. (Isabel C. Eagle) .. . . . . .New York.
- Smith, Miss Florence E.....Britton, South Dakota,
- Smith, Dr. Julia Holmes.....Chicago, Ill.
- Smith, Mrs. Junius (Ella Geer).....Rochester, N. Y.
- Smith, Mrs. John Oliver (Sarah E. Workman).....Chicago, Ill.
- Smith, Miss Sarah L.....Hanover, N. H.
- Snow, Mrs. Henry C. (Lavinia Kimball).....Boston, Mass.
- Southmayd, Mrs. M. C. (Maria C. Larned).....Middletown, Conn.
- Southworth, Mrs. Gardner T. (Cornelia E. Murfey).....Batavia, N. Y.
- Spalding, Mrs. John F. (Lavinia Spencer).....Denver, Col.
- Stagg, Mrs. Charles T.....New York.
- Staples, Miss Cornelia T.....Wilmington, Del.
- \*Stephens, Mrs. Eleanor B. Kimball, in memory of, from her daughters, Miss Sarah B. Stephens and Mrs. Chauncey W. Goodrich.....New York.
- \*Stevens, Mrs. George (Sarah H. Vanderbilt), in memory of, from her daughter, Mrs. Charles R. Lee.....East Orange, N. J.
- Stoddard, Mrs. Charles A. (Mary E. Prime).....New York,
- Sturdivant, Mrs. (Jane Odeneal).....Columbus, Miss.
- Suffern, Mrs. Edward (Alice DeR. Adams).....Plainfield, N. J.
- Sullivan, Mrs. Arthur T. (Isabelle Place).....New York.
- Sullivan, Miss Florence.....New York.

- Taylor, Miss Mary E.....New York.
- \*Taylor, Mrs. William (Mary Ann Leigh), in memory of, from her daughter,  
Mrs. Charles E. Whittemore.....New York.
- Thompson, Miss Helen M.....New York.
- Thurber, Mrs. Jefferson M. (Mary A. Levington).....Detroit, Mich.
- \*Tiffany, Mrs. (Miss A. G. Hoadley, our dear teacher), in memory of, from  
Mrs. M. E. Mead.....Norwalk, Conn.
- \*Tift, Mrs. Asa F. (Anna Wheeler), in memory of, from her cousin, Mrs.  
Hall T. McGee.....Charleston, S. C.
- Tillson, Miss Christiana H.....Elizabeth, N. J.
- Todd, Mrs. Mortimer M. (Helen M. Benedict).....New York.
- \*Tompkins, Mrs. Hamilton B. (Susie Ledyard), in memory of, from her sis-  
ter, Mrs. Francis W. Goddard.....Newport, R. I.
- \*Townsend, Mrs. R. H. L. (Adeline Allen), in memory of, from her hus-  
band.....New York.
- Train, Mrs. Horace (Hattie Chappell).....Sheffield, Mass.
- Trumbull, Mrs. Jonathan (Harriet R. Richards).....Norwich, Conn.
- Tucker, Mrs. J. C. (Minnie Havemeyer).....Oakland, Cal.
- Tyler, Miss Anna H.....Plainfield, N. J.
- Tyng, Mrs. Emma Moffet.....New York.
- \*Uhlhorn, Mrs. J. F. (Gertrude Franklin); in memory of, from her daughter,  
Mrs. Gertrude F. Atherton.....San Francisco, Cal.
- \*Van Beuren, Miss Josephine F., in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. J. B.  
Reynolds.....New York.
- Vigelius, Mrs. William (Clara Galpin).....Cranford, N. J.
- Vinal, Mrs. Charles G. R. (M. Amelia Hotchkiss).....Middletown, Conn.
- Wadhams, Mrs. A. V. (Caroline E. Henderson), Wadhams Mills, Essex Co., N. Y.
- Waller, Mrs. Joseph F. (Estella Hyde).....Yonkers, N. Y.
- Warner, Mrs. Charles Dudley (Susan Lee).....Hartford, Conn.
- \*Washington, Mrs. Allan C. (Catherine L. Adams), in memory of Mr. John  
S. C. Abbott.....New York.
- Webster, Mrs. N. F. (N. Frances Jones).....Elizabeth, N. J.
- \*Wells, Mrs. Frederick S. (Josephine Perry), in memory of, from her daugh-  
ter, Mrs. Frederic Strong.....New York.
- West, Mrs. Edwin (Lucy Cooke).....New York.
- Westcott, Mrs. Robert F. (Margaret J. Cook).....New York.
- Wheeler, Mrs. F. B. (Charlotte P. Wickes).....Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- Wheeler, Mrs. H. V. (Henrietta V. Barnum).....New York.

- White, Mrs. George T. G. (Mary E. Wagner).....Brooklyn, N. Y.
- \*Wickes, Miss Julia Fitch, in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. John F. Winslow.....Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- Wiley, Miss Eliza M..... East Orange, N. J.
- Williams, Mrs. John C. (M. Augusta Sears).....Cleveland, Ohio.
- \*Wilson, Mrs. Henry S. (Emily F. Harris), in memory of, from her husband.....New York.
- \*Wilson, Miss Mary E., our dear teacher, in memory of, from Mrs George P. Rowell.....Calais, Me.
- \*Wing, Mrs. George (Mary E. Gould), in memory of, from her children.....Lincoln, Neb.
- \*Wohirabe, Miss Helena, in memory of, from her sister, Mrs. E. W. De-longe... ..Staten Island, N. Y.
- Woodbnry, Mrs. Charles H. (Fannie McGaw).....New York.
- \*Woodruff, Mrs. Morris (Juliette A. Lane) in memory of, from her sister Mrs. Henry C. Eno.
- \*In Memoriam.

“ Heard melodies are sweet, but some unheard  
Are sweeter.”

These melodies “ heard ” and “ unheard,” whether in tender wishes, inspiring words or noble gifts all “ ring in the new ” era of love to the girls of Vassar College.

The “ sequel ” is not yet.

## CHAPTER THIRD.

"THE TIE THAT BINDS."

A STORY OF REUNIONS.

*From the New York Tribune.*

### I.



MEETING of the Spingler and Abbot alumnae was held on June 1st in the spacious parlors of Mrs. Andrew M. Prentiss, at 30 West 34th Street. Between fifty and sixty ladies were present, many of whom are prominent in the New York social circles, and all of them were students in either the Spingler or Abbot Institutes.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Melville Emory Mead, who nominated Mrs. George W. Lane as Chairman, and Miss Gertrude F. McNamee as Secretary.

Mrs. Lane, in a graceful address of welcome, related the history of the meeting and its purpose, which was to be not only a reunion of old friends, but an attempt to honor the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gorham D. Abbot; and as one who could speak most fittingly on this occasion of their virtues and purposes, she introduced to the audience the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott.

Dr. Abbott took the hearts of the alumnae by storm in a series of clever allusions to some of the peculiar methods and rules of the old Institution, bringing the personality of Mr. Gorham Abbot into touch with the spirit of the meeting. He spoke earnestly of his work, and that of his gifted, noble wife, which was so linked with his, that it was hard

to tell which one inspired the ideals that both fulfilled. Dr. Abbott bore beautiful testimony to the power, the consecration, the untiring service of these educators to the cause of higher education in the pre-college age. He spoke of Mr. Abbot's joy in the surrender of his plans to Matthew Vassar, and of his delight in the founding of Vassar College; of his present delight in it, "for I am one," said the gifted speaker, "who believe that the dead do not die, but live with all their hearts aglow with love for the nobler cause they served while here. They but pass on to a higher life, and the object of such a meeting as this is one to fill their hearts with new joy, that their work is to be continued in the college they helped to found, and in a perpetual ministry to girls, who may need their ministry."

Dr. Abbott bore witness to the grand work being carried forward by Vassar College, and said he could give no higher testimony to its value than by stating that he had placed his own daughter there.

After the conclusion of his remarks, Mrs. Lane read a letter from Miss Helen W. Ludlow, of Hampton Institute, Hampton, of which the following is an extract:

"It is with great regret I find myself unable to respond to your call. I can assure you that I shall be with you in spirit, and one with you in the plans which shall be made to honor the memory of our beloved Mr. and Mrs. Abbot, and to prove our loyalty to them and to their noble aims for the higher education of women.

"A tribute which shall take the form of some live continuing work for such aims rather, than of memorial bronze or marble seems to me infinitely more fitting—the only monument worthy to succeed that which, for a generation, has been theirs, the monument of lives which they made happy and useful.

"And I am very glad to see Vassar College named in your circular of invitation as the appropriate place for the establishment of such a memorial,—especially glad, since I have learned your discovery of the direct, broad-hearted part Mr. Abbot took in connection with the founding of that Institution, which, as you have said, was the first to carry out the great desire of his heart for the collegiate education of women on the most liberal scale, which is still so grandly carrying it forward. In Mr. Abbot's generous bequest of his good will to Vassar, may we not feel our own pledged to it in a sacred, delicate trust."

"Following Miss Ludlow's lead," said Mrs. Lane, I now take pleasure in introducing the President of Vassar College, Rev. Dr. Taylor.

Dr. Taylor's address was full of eloquence, power and fervor. He detailed the state of public opinion on the education of women in the forties and before, the struggles of women like Emma Willard, Mary Lyon and others to secure opportunities for intellectual training, and to give these to others. In the public apathy to the needs of higher education for girls, the unbelief in its necessity or its possibility, Mr. Abbot arose with his far reaching plans as a pioneer for the College. His heart was full of a sublime purpose. He carried it forward, through good report and through evil report. He gave himself to a work in which he believed, but in which the community at large was not in full sympathy. He made it a success so far as it could be made a success in such conditions. He had to educate not only his girls, but his public, to create a sentiment of sympathy, of faith and of support, and he accomplished all that could have been done at that time, even if he had had unlimited funds. A college must have time to grow, and the seed planted by Mr. Gorham Abbot is still growing, and will attain its fairest bloom in ages to come.

Dr. Taylor spoke of the influence of Mr. Abbot in founding Vassar College. He said Mr. Vassar was oppressed with the responsibility of his wealth. He wished to bestow it upon some charity, and he was looking about for the best medium to which to entrust it. His mind fluctuated from one point to another. At this time he met Mr. Abbot, and was drawn in sympathy to his ideals of female education. Many a conference they had together, and

it was a notable meeting of two men with widely different gifts—Mr. Vassar, a plain man of business, without the advantage of liberal education; Mr. Abbot, gifted, cultured, inspired with high purpose, but lacking abundant means.

At last the purpose of the one reached the wealth of the other, and to Mr. Vassar, Mr. Abbot made the bequest of his most cherished plans for the founding of a college for girls. Hence it may be said that Vassar College is the gift of Mr. Abbot's heart to Mr. Vassar's, and from Mr. Vassar to the world. And from the time of his conference with Mr. Abbot, Mr. Vassar's life was changed. He was infused with a grand purpose that transformed his ideals, his aspirations. Never was the influence of the noble educator more strongly felt, than upon the founder of Vassar College.

Dr. Taylor elaborated upon the points of similarity of the Spingler with the college of to-day, the broad lecture courses, the prominent place of art in education, the fine picture galleries of Spingler, the library work in literature, the large equipment of apparatus for use in the study of natural sciences, the laboratories, the musical departments, these all testified to Mr. Abbot's advanced thought in educational methods and in training.

In still another point was the Spingler in touch with Vassar. *Character* was made the foundation of good work. And again, in catholicity of teaching, in unsectarian, but in Christian influence, they were alike. And lastly, in their wide-spread influence. Spingler drew its students from twenty-five states, from more than one of the territories, from Canada, the West Indies, and even from Europe. Vassar to-day does the same. The noblest testimony to Spingler is in the lives it has trained: and this same work will be for Vassar its greatest glory in all the ages that are to come.

Dr. Taylor's remarks were received with profound attention.

Following his address, Mrs. Mead read a paper, giving in detail the plan proposed to the alumnae for establishing a Memorial scholarship in Vassar College, to be called the Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbot Memorial, whose avails may be applied to the completion of the education of worthy students who might otherwise be compelled to abandon a college course.

After the reading of various letters of regret for necessary absence and approval of the object from a large number of the alumnae, a permanent organization of a committee to carry forward this work was effected.



II.

The reception to the Abbot Memorial Committee, and to the former students of the Spingler and Abbot Institutes, given by Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan at her elegant residence, 584 Fifth Avenue, on Thursday afternoon, was a delightful occasion.

After a half hour of social enjoyment, the large audience, assembled in the spacious parlors, was called to order by Mrs. George W. Lane, in the place of Mrs. Moses Hopkins, the chairman, who was unable on account of illness to be present.

Mrs. Lane presided in a most felicitous manner, and after a brief address of welcome, introduced the Secretary, Miss Gertrude F. McNamee, to report the work done by her during the summer months. Miss McNamee spoke of the hundreds of letters written, and of the enthusiastic letters which came to her from Spingler and Abbot students in nearly every part of the land. All the old pupils from whom she has heard seemed to respond most heartily to the plan of establishing a memorial scholarship in Vassar College that should bear the names of Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbot.

Following the Secretary, Mrs. George P. Rowell gave the Treasurer's report, which stated that up to the present time \$1,980.00 had been received, and this without any special appeal. The most tender and beautiful letters accompanied many of these gifts, some of which were but one dollar, others hundreds of dollars in amount.

The next speaker was Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, who detailed the growth of a College Club to which she belonged. Mrs. Clark spoke with much animation and feeling of the necessity of securing high standards of character in educa-

tors, and urged that the influence of Spingler women should be pledged to this.

Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke, D.D., then delivered a brilliant address of great force and power. He urged that the high standards of education for character must be first secured in the home, that the mothers must develop and train the moral purpose of their children, and after them, the teachers could build on the foundation laid in the home. This, he said, was what those eminent educators, Mr. and Mrs. Gorham D. Abbot, sought to do for their pupils. They gave of what cost most, the life of their heart and brain. It only needed to see the audience gathered on this occasion to know how nobly this work had been done. He said the establishment of this scholarship was to commemorate a Victory, it was a monument of love, and it was a perpetuation of the work of Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbott through generations to come. He compared Mr. Abbot's life, in its various phases, to the series of pictures, *Cole's Voyage of Life*, whose art we have outgrown, but whose teaching is no less potent now than of old. In glowing words he described Mr. Abbot's launching of the bark of higher education for girls in New York City, a frail craft bound for a perilous voyage, passing through many dangers, until to-day it floats secure and strong, a grander vessel—Vassar College.

Dr. Van Dyke's address was received with the greatest enthusiasm and applause. Mrs. Lane introduced President Taylor of Vassar College, who spoke with great vigor on "The Need of Scholarships in Vassar College." He alluded to the beautiful work of Mr. Abbot, as finding still expression in Vassar; to the reflex effect of the effort to secure such a scholarship on the former Abbot students, who were to-day among the honored women of America, and

in the social circles in which they move. While the spirit of higher education was abroad in certain sections of this land, it had not fully permeated public opinion. This effort to secure a memorial scholarship was one of the agencies for the grand cause of higher education for women. Another need of the scholarship was for the girls themselves. In making the appropriations for aid for the coming year, 1899-1900, he had been obliged by lack of funds for this purpose to refuse all applications, but one, of many Freshmen who had hoped to enter college, but who were unable to do so for lack of funds. No one need hesitate to contribute on the ground that there was no need of the gift ; no gift could be more timely or more acceptable than this new foundation in Vassar College for the Abbot Memorial Scholarship.

Another delightful feature of the occasion was a short address by Miss Maria P. Gilman, a former and dearly beloved teacher at Spingler ; and one by Mrs. Curtis Howes, of Boston, who detailed the interview of Mr. Vassar and Mr. Abbot, when Mr. Abbot surrendered to Mr. Vassar his plans for founding a college for Girls.

The social function that followed was of an extremely pleasant character. Tea was served in the beautiful dining room by fair young girls, who were counted among the “grand-daughters” of Spingler, and who added charm to the occasion by their presence.

## III.

*From the New York Tribune, May 19.*

On Thursday afternoon, May 18, a number of the former students of the Spingler and Abbott Collegiate Institutes met at the home of Mrs. Moses Hopkins, 1 East Fifty-sixth Street.

Miss Gertrude F. McNamee, Secretary of the Abbot Memorial Committee, reported that about 800 students of the Spingler and Abbot Collegiate Institutes had been accounted for. Many have died. Some are living at great distances; but if it is possible to trace them, they will be informed of the project for perpetuating the memory and work of Mr. Abbot and his wife, so they may not be debarred from participation in the labor of love for their former teachers.

Rev. Horatio Oliver Ladd, of Jamaica, Long Island, gave an address on "The Honored Teacher and His Work." Mr. Ladd was associated with Mr. Abbot in the closing years of his school, and is connected with the Abbot family through his wife. He spoke feelingly of the character and influence of that great teacher, and of the results of his teaching and example as shown in the lives of his pupils. He demonstrated in his school that instruction in philosophy and science should neither detract from woman's work of home-making, nor from any womanly quality; above all else he endeavored to develop Christian character and true womanhood. Mr. Ladd traced succinctly the growth of the sentiment in favor of more liberal education for women. Vassar College was the first Institution of its kind; to-day we have Smith, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley, Radcliffe, and others, with co-education at some of the Universities. As late as 1862 there was not a Normal School for girls in the City of New York; now such schools in the whole country number hundreds.

At the conclusion of Rev. Mr. Ladd's impressive address, the following paper on "The Test of Loyalty to Alma Mater," was read by Mrs. Julia Keese Colles (Class of '59), now of Morristown, N. J.:

*Madame Chairman, Classmates and Fellow Students;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

The request of your Committee of the Alumnae that I should read a paper to-day on "The Test of Loyalty to Alma Mater" is cheerfully complied with. It is a pleasure to lay a flower upon the wreath of immortelles, already twined.

The quality of loyalty, itself, in the nature of man, is akin to the quality of patriotism, which ranks as the highest of human motives or principles. It is, therefore, uplifting and inspiring to behold a response like that of the present occasion, to the bugle-call of a few leaders,—when a large body of students,—scattered over the length and breadth of our continent, and of other continents,—rise, in the midst of their busy life work, and call back, "Yes, we will honor the brave and generous benefactors of our young lives." What though—wondrous to relate!—through a generation, these two beneficent workers have been laid away o rest, and have been, as men would think and say, forgotten! At once, they live again, and hearts are warm and voices shadow forth these heart-thoughts in words of praise and pictures of memory; and the two who have blessed our lives, live again, as says the Blessed Book. in their works, which do follow them.

We sing, with Halleck, of them both:

"Green be the turf above thee,  
Friend of my early days;  
None knew thee but to love thee,  
None named thee but to praise."

As the test of this beautiful loyalty, inspired by beautiful lives, there comes from the alumnæ of the Spingler and Abbot Collegiate Institutes, far and near, a fund given joyfully—from some, more, of their abundance; from others, less, in their less favored circumstances, to place a memorial of these two really *great* teachers in one of our halls of learning. What could possibly be more appropriate than this scholarship in Vassar College! What more harmonious with the facts, that this first of the Woman's colleges of America, is an embodiment of the life-work and thought of those, whom we wish to honor!

Now, it is frequently said, "We die and are forgotten, and our place is filled at once. No one is so important that he is missed." This gathering is proof positive of the fallacy of this unnerving doctrine. It is not so. On the contrary, we are stones,—each of us,—in the great structure of God's universe, and we each have a definite place which is and can be filled by no other.

The stranger will ask: "What are the grounds for this unusual and remarkable exhibition of loyalty?" To reply will involve a few reminiscences, which illustrate the character of the two individuals who,—as now evidenced,—have impressed themselves so strongly on the generation which, *so late* truly, rises to do them honor.

Let us look back and analyse somewhat the fine course of instruction which is now so precious a memory.

There were some unusual and rare qualities about old Spingler and the Abbot Collegiate Institute, as well as about the personality of both Mr. and Mrs. Abbot. A few of these will occur to many of us at once.

In the first place there was a spirit of happiness prevailing in the Institution, especially among those who had the advantage of being members of the family where the *home*

feeling prevailed. The motive most strongly impressed upon us all was, that of the *joy* of improving our opportunities, rather than the pressure of a heavy weight of responsibility. *Duty*, however, was strongly “in the air.” Wordsworth’s fine “Ode to Duty” was frequently committed to memory, as was much other poetry. This feature of the school was one which might be followed with advantage by many of our schools to-day. They forget the mission of *poetry*, which, as Matthew Arnold has well said, is “the highest form of expression of human thought.”

This appreciation of the mission of poetry led to the cultivation of the practice of making verses.

There was some very good original poetry written by the students, of which a few lines recur to me, which had the true poetic ring ; and were given at our Commencement exercises. They have the pathos of the parting :

“ Hope and joy bright wreaths are flinging  
On the fleeting, happy hours ;  
But the garlands droop and wither,  
Sorrow’s touch is on love’s flowers.”

Written by sweet, bright, sunny Fannie Holdrege, whom everybody loved. She has passed on to eternal sunshine.

“ Life is full of joy and sorrow,  
Scarce we meet ere we must part ;  
Smiles to-day and tears to-morrow  
Are the lot of every heart.”

Written by Lavinia D. Spencer, now the wife of one of our prominent Western Bishops, Bishop Spalding of Colorado.

The very best and most capable instructors were supplied in every department, so that what we studied, we understood, from step to step. Among these, Mr. Pierson comes very strongly before me. He conducted our delight-

ful Mental Philosophy studies, and also had charge of the essays of the Junior and Senior classes. He had a genius for suggestion, and inspired the girls to *think*, to such a degree, indeed, that there was always a throng about him at the close of the hour, and between the ringing of the bells which marked the close of one recitation, and the beginning of another. I recall his impressing urgently upon us the importance for every cultured woman, of reading the newspaper every day, at least the summary of events.

Mr. Abbot's personal visits to the classes, which occurred at odd times, were rather enjoyed than dreaded. He had a number of favorite subjects, to which he often recurred, and which, being good subjects, we were no doubt the better for having impressed upon us. The wits of the school, however, sometimes called them "hobbies," and made them targets for their shafts. One of these subjects was about the *deduco* and the *induco*: the necessity in education of having our minds drawn out, rather than crammed with unassimilated knowledge.

Mr. Abbot's favorite expression of his desires and aims for us was in the words of the Psalmist (Ps. XLIV: 12) which, I doubt not, every one present could repeat—"That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." And his suggestion to our Class, for its motto, was significant of his enthusiastic spirit: "Adelphi Stephanophori," "Daughters Crowned."

Another theme for amusement to the wits, was Mr. Abbot's intense love of Thomas Cole's remarkable allegorical pictures of the "Voyage of Life," the originals of which, he was proud to own.

At the Chapel exercises, every morning, which were wisely *compulsory*, Mr. Abbot had always something to say, and worth remembering.



I can see him passing swiftly through the rooms of the building, as we went back and forth to our classes or daily duties. He was always grave and serious, yet always ready to respond.

One of his favorite "quarters of an hour" was at the close of the six o'clock dinner. We can hear, at this moment, the rap, rap, rap, that came at the close of the meal, from his place at the head of the table, where Mrs. Abbot sat always at his right hand.

At once, every one sat up, conversation ceased and quiet reigned. It was an appalling moment to the new-comers, for no one ever knew what was going to happen. I can hear Mr. Abbot say: "Young ladies, never touch the back of your chair." Sometimes, he would tell us, graphically, important events of the day. This would lead to geographical or historical questions, and these would be given to one and another for the next evening.

Sometimes, he would call, suddenly, for a thought from the lessons of the day. Sometimes, Mrs. Abbot would call in her sweet voice, for a line or more of poetry from each. It was surprising how soon the new students adjusted themselves to these conditions, and how rapidly they improved in self-possession and in power of expression. These table exercises gave the girls conversational power and were invaluable. I have known of no other school that has pursued this plan. It involves a great deal of trouble for the preceptors.

Once, Mr. Abbot tried having certain young ladies give, at this hour, sketches of Professor Hitchcock's fine historical lectures. We had Prof. Hitchcock on the earliest history of the world to the time of Greece, Prof. Howard Crosby, who was a great favorite, on the history of Greece, and Prof. Botta on Roman history. This experiment of the

lecture sketches at the table, went well, but was so great a strain upon the girls appointed, that it was finally abandoned.

On Saturday evening, the young ladies who had been out during the day were expected to give some account of their observations and reflections. These were often most interesting and profitable, and became more so, as the year went on.

On Sunday, at the noon dinner, every young lady, in turn, was called upon to give a thought from the sermon. Only two sermons were heard, at Dr. Tyng's of St. George's and at the Mercer Street Presbyterian Church. It may be imagined, that, before dinner, there was, frequently, "hurrying to and fro" of the foolish virgins, begging "a *thought*" from the wise.

Always, every morning at breakfast, we gave a verse in French from the Bible, and our morning lesson at prayers, before breakfast, was read in French with Mrs. Abbot. After dinner, games in French followed, for half an hour, directed by Mlle. Subit, whom we remember gladly. Then study hour.

All this conversational work should again be emphasized.

There was no system of espionage in this home school; no absolute compulsion. Leading, stimulating, inspiring to high ideals, rather than driving, was the course pursued, and so far as I recall, it worked well.

The health conditions of the students were carefully guarded. The walks, each day, were insisted upon; the calisthenic exercises, to music, also, especially for those who stooped. The table was always excellent, and there was especially a great variety of bread, six or seven kinds at breakfast and luncheon. At dinner, a unique plan was followed. Along the table, with dessert, at intervals, were

plates of deliciously spread brown and white bread, and butter. So, no one could possibly ever go away hungry.

The hour of sessions each day were from nine till three o'clock, with an interval for luncheon. These hours were short enough. How the schools get on with less than that time, now, is amazing. Nine to 12:45, for instance ! as is the case with some we know. We wonder how the girls can get an education, especially when the college standards are higher every year. A lady told me recently that her daughter of sixteen went to a certain noted school in New York from 11 till 1 o'clock, which, she added, gave her plenty of time for her music and drawing.

Luncheon was Mrs. Abbot's time. She would glide softly into the room and take her seat at the head of the table. Then, with the gentlest manner imaginable, remarks from her would follow. She would give us advice on matters of daily life ; sometimes suggestions, veiled, but evidently made upon observation of defects, here and there. Once, for instance, she said: “Young ladies, it is better never to borrow, but if you do, always be as careful to return fivecents as if it were five dollars.” I can hear her say it now, in her sweet and earnest tones. There was an appealing quality in her voice.

It was whispered about, and always among the new students, that Mrs. Abbot had had a great sorrow in the loss of her daughter, and that she had risen from it to adopt all these children of others for her own. So, we felt the motherhood in her. She was of all things *womanly*, and she had a singular blending of dignity and sweetness. No one would think of attempting a familiarity with Mrs. Abbot, yet all admired and loved her. As I remember her, she was a beautiful, certainly she was an elegant woman, with fine bearing and an unmistakable air of culture. The

perfect harmony between her and Mr. Abbot, was a fine object lesson and had an excellent effect upon the girls, in spite of the fact that there have rarely been seen two beings, apparently more widely different, united in married life. They really seemed to blend like complementary colors.

Mrs. Abbot seems to me, as I see her now, an ideal woman, and we can fairly say of the two, in Tennyson's words:

" And so these twain upon the skirts of Time,  
Sit side by side, full-summed in all their powers,  
Dispensing harvest, sowing the To-be  
Self-reverent each and reverencing each,  
Distinct in individualities."

Only a few of the points in this analysis have been dwelt upon. Many more suggest themselves to us who look backward. But, in these influences for good, which we feel so warmly within us to-day,—which draw out and enable us to attest our "Loyalty to Alma Mater," and which also we pass on to the sweet girl graduates of Vassar, in these influences we recognize what some one has finely designated "the true transmigration of souls."

This paper by Mrs. Colles, with its witty allusions to old school jests and its pathetic reminiscences of teachers and pupils who have passed away, brought smiles and tears in succession to the faces of her listeners. When she made a reference to a favorite text of Mr. Abbot and said, "I think most of my hearers could repeat it now," the listeners as with one voice spoke the words: "That our daughters may be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace."

Following Mrs. Colles's address letters from Vassar teachers and graduates were read by Mrs. Rowell, Miss

Averill, and Miss Barber, showing that Vassar is the “ heir of Spingler in its religious life.”

Mrs. Melville Emory Mead, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, presided at the meeting.

The reception that followed was a charming feature of a delightful occasion.

## IV.

Spingler Alumnæ hold a Reunion and plan for a Memorial Scholarship to be founded at Vassar.

*From the New York Mail and Express, January 18, 1903.*

The former pupils of the Spingler and Abbot Collegiate Institutes held a reunion in the Green Parlor of the Manhattan Hotel yesterday afternoon. Reminiscences of school life, stories of other gatherings of the "Spingler girls," bright smiles and cheery words, interesting addresses and sparkling music were some of the characteristics of the assembly. The hours were from two to five o'clock, a social being held during the first hour. There were about one hundred ladies present when Mrs. Melville Emory Meade, of Norwalk, Conn., called the meeting to order at three o'clock. Miss Gertrude F. McNamee was the secretary.

Rev. Edward Abbot, of Cambridge, Mass., editor of the "Literary World," delivered an address on "Reminiscences of Rev. Gorham D. and Rebecca Abbot." Miss Fannie Averill, of this city, read a paper on "The Abiding Influence of Mr. Abbot's Work." Mrs. Emma Moffett Tyng, in her address on "The Message of Memorials," speaking of the efforts being made to raise \$8,000 to found a Vassar scholarship in honor of the Champion of higher education for women, said :

A scholarship at Vassar College in memory of Mr. Gorham Abbot and Rebecca Abbot ! Think what it means ! To lay the hand of blessing on the dead : to light the lamp of knowledge in the hand of many a brave young spirit. The years go on and soon our work will be finished and our hands folded. It may, by the chances of life, be for one of your blood or one of mine, that this gift of training is prepared."

Miss Ethel Crane sang the following songs : "Were I a

Star,” “A Red, Red Rose,” “The Blackbird,” “Je Veux l’Aimee” and “Oh, Haste Thee, Sweet.” Miss Helen Burr, formerly of Lincoln, Neb., harpist, played Zabel’s “Legende” and a “Romance” from “Mignon.” Miss Crane was in fine voice, and her songs, with the exquisite performance of Miss Burr on the harp, were heartily applauded.

The Abbot Memorial Fund Committee reported that about \$4,452 had been pledged so far. Mrs. Mead appealed to the ladies for more and harder work in securing gifts for the fund. The “Spingler girls” clasped hands, sang “Auld Lang Syne” with force and spirit, and the entertainment was over.

TEA AND ADJOURNMENT.

Tea was then handed around, the ladies indulged in more chats about their school days of years ago, and the reunion of 1900 was a thing of the past. Some of the ladies present had graduated from the John and Jacob Abbott’s School, a predecessor of the Spingler Institute erected in 1848, on Union Square, by the heirs of Henry Spingler.

Prof. Berg, who dropped into the meeting at its close, had the pleasure of greeting a dozen or so of his former piano pupils.

## V.

On December 5, 1900, the fifth Reunion of the pupils of the famous Abbot schools, of New York, was held at the Hotel Manhattan. A large gathering of people, not only from New York, but from its adjacent cities and towns in New Jersey and Connecticut, were present. There were guests also from Massachusetts, from Michigan, and from Illinois.

The spirit of the meeting was inspiring. The orator of the occasion was the Rev. A. F. Schauffler, D.D., of New York. His address was scholarly and brilliant, and was based on the theory of development as applied to this Abbot Memorial. He traced back from the effect to the cause of this remarkable expression of gratitude to a distinguished teacher, and closed with the expression of the hope, that the joy bells about to usher in the new century might peal in harmony with the eight notes of the scale, a melody, also of eight notes, the \$8,000 of the new endowment in Vassar College.

Mrs. Julia Baker Schauffler spoke delightfully of the memories of her school days. She considered the influence of the School to be strongly on the side of high scholarship, patriotism and noble ideals. Referring to the large numbers of those who had entered into the life beyond, she compared the loyal legion who were left, to the remnant of the chosen, to whom Isaiah's, promises were as applicable as in the days when they were spoken. Upon this "Remnant" she urged such efforts, as might bring the immediate consummation of the labor of love.

Mademoiselle Le Clère for many years connected with the French department of the Abbot Schools, bore testimony to the high value of Mr. Abbot's moral ideals of education, and in her earnest, impassioned way committed anew those



ideals to her former pupils as a trust to be perpetuated in the name of their great teacher in the College which has embodied his hope for the future.

Photographs and engravings of Spingler Institute, and of the mansion corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, to which the school removed, known as "Upper Spingler," with a fine portrait of Rev. Gorham D. Abbot, found a ready sale. The original plates from which the pictures were made were kindly loaned by Rev. Edward Abbott, D.D., of Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Abbott also generously donated the few remaining copies of a book prepared some years since entitled "A Brief Memorial of the Rev. G. D. and Mrs. R. S. Abbot," which were speedily sold.

The fund, including \$400, in pledges not yet paid, stands on the books, at \$7,157.23 leaving \$842.77 still to be raised to complete the scholarship. Fifty-one subscriptions received since the Treasurer's report of November tenth, Nineteen Hundred, show that interest is not waning, and bring the total number of subscriptions to date to two hundred seventy-eight.

At the close of the reunion there was an hour spent in social enjoyment.

The Music was of a high order, and was furnished by Mademoiselle Van den Hende, the noted 'Cellist, and by a charming young Swedish vocalist, under the generous patronage of Mrs. Moses Hopkins and Mrs. Arthur T. Sullivan.

## VI.

A distinguished company of friends, numbering between four and five hundred in all, responded to the invitation of the Abbot Memorial Committee to the Presentation Reunion, held at The Manhattan on Wednesday afternoon, December eighteenth, Eighteen Hundred Ninety-one.

The audience was representative, and as such worthy of the occasion. Ladies and gentlemen prominent in educational, philanthropic, and professional circles, social leaders in what represents New York's best society, clergymen, college presidents, naval officers, lawyers, editors, bankers and business men, mingled with the noble women who, as daughters of the Abbot Schools, had met to honor the memories of Rev. Gorham D. Abbot and his wife, by the foundation of a scholarship in Vassar College that should bear their names.

After a social reception, in which a charming program of music was furnished by the Landor Orchestra, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Business Committee, Mrs. Melville Emory Mead, who gave a brief history of the movement to secure a scholarship fund and of the conditions on which the scholarship is based. These conditions were stated to be as follows:

The Gorham D. and Rebecca S. Abbot Memorial Scholarship is deeded to the Trustees of Vassar College absolutely and forever, with the following limitations:

The award of this Scholarship is absolutely conditioned upon good standing in College.

The Scholarship shall be opened to all suitable candidates, but in its award, other things being equal, preference shall be given to a descendent of an alumna of the Spingler or Abbot Collegiate Institutes.

In case there are two or more candidates, the decision

shall be left to the Trustees of the College, and if there are no such applicants, the scholarship is to be used as the President shall direct.

Introducing Rev. Edward Abbott, D.D., of Cambridge, Mass., Mrs. Mead said:

"The Abbot Memorial Committee feels honored in placing the deed of this Scholarship in the hands of one who, by ties of kindred represents to us the noble man whose name he bears, and whom we alike honor and revere. To transmit this gift from your Committee to the splendid College of which it will be henceforth a part, Dr. Abbott has come to-day, as he has done before, to render aid to our cause, and I pass to him, in your name, your gift of love, of remembrance, and of trust."

With these words the Chairman handed to Dr. Abbott the draft for eight thousand dollars made payable to the Treasurer of Vassar College. Dr. Abbott responded in an eloquent address, assuring the audience of the pleasure it gave him to be present and to partake in such important an occasion. He said:

"The feelings represented this afternoon are half a century old, and it is remarkable that grateful recollections should so survive the many changes that come with the lapse of years.

Were Dr. Gorham D. Abbott alive to-day he would be ninety-three years old. What Mrs. Abbot's age would be it would not be proper, perhaps, for me to state. This circumstance of age is of interest, as illustrating the durability and tenacity of mental impressions. Half a century has passed since the attachments were formed which find their consummating expression this afternoon. How many joys, how many sorrows, how many trials, have overlaid those earlier impressions, and yet, as we turn back the

pages of the book of recollection, the memories of those whom we now meet to honor seem as clear and as vivid as when we knew them. It is one of the remarkable features of this occasion that the grateful recollections of the pupils of Dr. and Mrs. Abbot should have so long survived the changes of this mortal life. It is a striking testimonial to the worth of their characters, the value of their services, and the reverent affection in which their memories are held.

Dr. Abbot was one of five sons of a plain New England yeoman. All these five sons graduated at Bowdoin College, all prepared for the ministry at Andover Seminary, all became ministers, all became successful teachers, and all but one left names upon their title pages of American literature. Their associations in these lines of usefulness, no less than their individualities, furnish an impressive instance of hereditary endowment and development.

In their early manhood three of the brothers, namely, Jacob, John S. C. and Gorham, were so much alike in their outward presentment, that it was sometimes difficult for those who were not familiar with them to distinguish them apart. But by those who knew them intimately the differentiations in their characters were easily made. Those differentiations were once expressed in the following words: 'Jacob for counsel, John for a speech, and Gorham for a prayer.' How apt that characterization is will be quickly recognized by some here present this afternoon, whose privilege it was to know these brothers and see them together side by side.

Dr. Gorham D. Abbot was, first, the pastor of a Presbyterian church at New Rochelle; second, the organizing secretary of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. In this capacity he travelled extensively on horseback through the Southern states, at a time when such

an expedition was a considerable achievement, visiting the mountaineers and the plantations, and accumulating a great fund of information regarding schools, churches, and social conditions and needs. The journals and letters containing these data are extant. Later Dr. Abbot became associated with his brothers in founding a school, in New York City, for the higher education of young women, out of which grew the Spingler Institute, and later the Abbot Collegiate Institution, with which his name and Mrs. Abbot's have become inseparably identified. This enterprise, let it be remembered, long antedated the great colleges for women which are now such palpable realities: Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, Radcliffe, and Bryn Mawr had not even been dreamed of then. There is in my possession a letter from Dr. Howard Crosby, widely known throughout this land as the former Chancellor of the New York University, preëminent as a scholar, theologian, and educator, in which, under date of 1860, he says: 'I know of no school but the Spingler Institute, where the true idea of female education is appreciated, and women regarded as something better than cooks or playthings.' The part which Dr. Abbot took in the inception of Vassar College is now a matter of acknowledged though unwritten history. It is not too much to say that he was one of the founders of higher education for women in this country.

In that volume of my family memorials which is devoted to Dr. Gorham Abbot, there is the manuscript chart of a 'phrenological survey' of Dr. and Mrs. Abbot. The handwriting is strange and the authorship is unknown, but at some time or other, for amusement probably, their 'heads were examined,' as the phrase went, and their characters mapped out, his on one page and hers on another. Whatever one may think of the 'science' of phrenology, so

called, the lists on this chart are not without interest. It is to be noticed that among the traits set down are 'ideality,' 'order,' 'concentrativeness,' and 'hope,' which are described as 'large,' while the traits that are 'very large' are 'benevolence' and 'veneration.' I see in the faces of some before me a confirmatory response to the accuracy of this delineation. Dr. Abbot *was* a man of visions, of system, of concentration of purpose, and of indomitable hopefulness; but over all these subordinate traits, like the dome above the temple, rose the benevolence of his disposition and his veneration for all things good and true. Dr. Abbot *was* visionary, but if there were no men to dream dreams and see visions, where would the world have been, and where would the future be? He *was* a pioneer, and it is very striking to reflect how many great movements of the present day were anticipated in his eager enthusiasm and sanguine forecast, and how much his mind occupied itself with schemes and enterprises which at the time seemed 'visionary' indeed, but which have now become among the accepted realities of history. We have just passed through a great wave of popular admiration for Queen Victoria and England; in 1860, when to do so was a most unpopular act, Dr. Abbot had the courage to speak a word of public American hospitality towards the Prince of Wales, whose visit to this country was then anticipated. We are living in times when Sons and Daughters of the Revolution and other patriotic organizations are both exhibiting and stimulating the love of country and a veneration for the Father of their Country's memory; Dr. Abbot, before the Civil War, had conceived and planned a series of Washington Tableaux which struck a new note of patriotic fervor at a time when it was needed. One of the great interests of the hour, judging from the commotion in Wall Street, is

copper; Dr. Abbot was one of the earliest to foresee the place of copper in coming industrial economy, and he planned for the development of the industry. We should find it very hard to get along without hard rubber in all sorts of ways and for all sorts of uses; Dr. Abbot had a part that few of you know in the development of that commodity as an article of modern use. At this very hour a Pan-American Congress in the Central American States is opening the way for an immense extension of commerce and trade between the two continents of the Western Hemisphere; Dr. Abbot was one of the first to see the political relations of the Republic of Mexico, and one of the first contributions to the literature of the subject is his volume on 'Mexico and the United States.' The first important act of Congress this winter has been the initiatory step toward the building of an inter-oceanic canal; years ago Dr. Abbot was flying back and forth between New York and Washington in consultation with representatives, senators, cabinet officials, and even the President himself, in behalf of what was then deemed the wildest of schemes, that of a canal across the American Isthmus. His relation to the great enginery of modern education for women has already been pointed out. With all his wonderful acquaintance with and interest in applied sciences, and his well known intimate relations with Professor S. F. B. Morse, the father of the modern telegraph, what would he have said if he could have lived to see Marconi standing on the soil of Newfoundland and receiving despatches by wireless telegraphy across the great wide sea! It is no undeserved tribute that you are paying to the memory of this man to-day.

And what shall I say in conclusion of that saintly, queenly woman—wife and mother—who stood by this man through all the years of his planning and hoping, cheering him when

he was discouraged, restraining him when he was imprudent, guiding him with her counsel, supplementing him with her gentle arts, and stamping the impress of her unique personality upon the hundreds of young women who passed under their united fostering care. No words that I can say to-day could add force to what I tried to say when last it was my pleasure and privilege to meet you, in extolling the memory of that remarkable and gifted woman.

Mrs. President, and ladies, Alumnæ of the Spingler Institute, I thank you for the distinguished honor and the grateful privilege which you have afforded me in making me the medium of the conveyance of the deed of trust of the Abbot Memorial Scholarship at Vassar College; and to you, sir, the President of that Institution, I now, in discharge of my sacred and grateful duty, hand this deed."

President Taylor's response in acceptance of the memorial was marked by deep feeling. He spoke very tenderly of Mr. Abbot, the knowledge of whose work had come to him through his sympathy with the aims and hopes of the Abbot Memorial Committee. From an acquaintance with the nephews he had grown to feel himself in sympathy with this grand pioneer in the work of higher education for women, and to feel the inspiration of his own lofty ideals.

It was a happy thought to commemorate the work of such a man, not in brass or marble, or in things that must crumble with time, but in that field of endeavor to which in life he had dedicated himself; the continued education of girls, along lines he had marked out for girls who should thus be trained through the ages to do a similar work. "You have prepared here a fruitful monument whose top stone will not have been laid until education is at an end in this country. You have erected a monument to yourselves, in doing for the girls of the future what has been done for



you. You have prepared not a cold, dead memorial but a living one that shall go on for all time."

Mrs. Mead spoke of the suggestion that had been made for the organization of an Abbot Alumnæ Association. By unanimous vote it was decided to form such an association, which should include all students, whether graduates or not, of the Abbot Schools, with their children and grandchildren.

Miss Helen Ludlow, the accomplished and brilliant editor of *The Southern Workman*, who has been so long connected with the Hampton Institute, was introduced and made a very telling speech. She urged the importance of conserving the dynamic force called into being by the work of the Abbot Committee, and submitted the possibilities for effort in the New Educational Society at the South, which is devoted to the education of the white population, in the public and rural schools. This Society had been organized largely through the efforts of Dr. Edward Abbott at one of the Lake Mohonk Conferences, and its plan of work was so elastic as to present an unusual opportunity for usefulness.

At the conclusion of Miss Ludlow's remarks which were enthusiastically received, Dr. Abbott rose, watch in hand, to give three more minutes before he should take the train for Boston, to a résumé of Miss Ludlow's propositions, which he said was of peculiar appropriateness because of Dr. Gorham Abbott's interest in the promotion of education at the South.

After the conclusion of the formal program, the time was given to social pleasure. Tea was served, and with delicious music and cheerful converse the afternoon brought to a close the work for the Abbot Memorial Scholarship.

The Secretary of the Abbot Memorial Committee will be happy to respond to any inquiries from those desiring information of friends and former pupils in the Abbot Schools, whose names may be upon her records.

Letters should be

addressed to Miss G. F. McNAMEE,

212 West Eighty-fifth Street,

New York City.







**This book is under no circumstances to be  
taken from the Building**

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